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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Should the House of Representatives impeach Gov. Benigno R. Fitial?

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INSIDE

NATION

Republicans Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan found themselves dragged into a debate Wednesday over hot-button social issues and answering for differences between their personal positions on abortion.

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Russia accused Western powers Wednesday of "openly instigating" Syrian opposition groups to take up arms in their fight to unseat President Bashar Assad.

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Inos: Power deal tied to shipyard project

Inos

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» Proposed 50MW plant could cost CUC some 18 cents per kWh
» Saipan Development LLC has 'local representative'

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos confirmed yesterday what most suspected all along: The 25-year power purchase agreement with a "guaranteed price" of $190.8 million is tied to a shipyard project in Lower Base where the current power plant is located. This was based on Inos' phone conversation with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial when news about the deal broke out.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), at the same time, said Saipan Development LLC has a local representative.

SDLCC is a Delaware-based firm bagging the power purchase contract.

That "local representative" earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that the 25-year power purchase agreement is part of CUC's privatization plan to improve the utility rate and power plant efficiency. The representative said the rate should be lower, to provide relief to residential and busi-

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'Preliminary analysis done prior to Fitial, Buckingham signing of power deal'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A preliminary analysis of a proposed 50-megawatt power plant was made prior to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and former attorney general Edward Buckingham's Aug. 3 signing of a 25-year power purchase agreement.

Based on the preliminary analysis made by economist.com, it appears that the cost of building and operating a new plant "would equal current expenses—in other words,

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APPRECIATING VETERANS ➤

Dr. James E. Hastings, director of the Pacific Island Health Care System under the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, talks to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, right, before the start of the Veterans Appreciation and Outreach event yesterday at the Marina Heights Business Park. Hastings noted that their office has made progress in addressing the issue of homelessness among veterans.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

ON PLANNED IMPEACHMENT RESOLUTION

Inos advice to lawmakers: Don't do it in haste, exercise caution

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos said yesterday he does not want to take a position on some lawmakers' plan to impeach Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, but he gave an unsolicited advice: Do your homework. Don't do it in haste. Exercise caution.

This is the first time that Inos directly commented on the issue of impeachment.

"What they're trying to do is a process provided for in the constitution.I don't want to … take a position either way. My only advice is, that's a very serious matter, they should make sure that they do

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Healthcare Corp. increases hospital charges, fees

» Emergency regulation for CHC new master charge takes effect

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Patients, insurance companies, and other clients of the public hospital will see a significant increase in the fees they will pay the Commonwealth Health Center after an emergency regulation enforcing a new comprehensive schedule of charges and fees took effect yesterday.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. yesterday announced the billing changes in a 130-page document submitted for publication in the Commonwealth Register.

RELATED NEWS
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Local

5 marine sports operators now back in business

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The five marine sports operators yesterday complied with Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho's order requiring them to post $60,172.95 in unsecured bond on top of the $1,861.05 that they had already posted as bond requirement in connection with their lawsuit against the Department of Public Lands over its rule on Managaha Island access.

As this developed, attorney Mark Scoggins, counsel for the marine sports operators, disclosed that the five companies were back in business yesterday afternoon.

Scoggins said the hearing on the cross motions for summary judgment is scheduled for Oct. 16, 2012 at 9am.

The operators—Island Marine Sports Inc., Aquatic Marine Co. Inc., Automarine Inc., Seahorse Inc., and BSEA Inc.—signed yesterday an acknowledgment of their responsibility for the unsecured amount.

The operators each promised to be bound unto defendants DPL and Tasi Tours & Transportation Inc. in an amount not to exceed $12,034.59 in the event defendants are found to have been wrongfully enjoined and are able to prove in the lawsuit actual damages in such an amount.

Camacho on Wednesday accepted the $1,861.05 that the five marine sports operators had posted as bond requirement.

In amending his previous order, Camacho, ruled that the $1,861.05 or 3 percent of the $62,034 bond requirement is considered a secured deposit sufficient for the preliminary injunction to issue.

The judge, however, ruled that the remaining portion of the bond requirement is considered unsecured.

Camacho said the preliminary injunction that he issued on July 19, 2012 shall become effective upon the filing of a signed acknowledgment by all five marine sports operators of their responsibility for the unsecured amount.

The preliminary injunction granted the marine sports operators' request to maintain the status quo on Managaha access until their lawsuit against DPL is decided on its merits.

In that injunction, Camacho ordered the operators to post the $62,034 bond requirement.

The operators then posted only $1,861.05 cash bond and filed a motion to modify the bond requirement. DPL and Tasi Tours opposed the motion.

The operators are suing DPL to invalidate the department's "rule" promulgated on Dec. 13, 2011 and June 14, 2012 pertaining to Managaha access.

The subject "rule" prohibits marine sports operators from picking up customers on Managaha Island for their tours unless they are Tasi Tours or its subcontractors.

DPL's subject rule is restricting the ability of marine sports tour operators, including the five petitioners, from picking up tourists from Managaha for water sports activities, and later returning the same tourists to Managaha after the water sports activities.

Inos wants immediate drawdown of $2.2M from $7M MPLT loan

» **Money to be set aside for hospital payroll, supplies**

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board disclosed that acting governor Eloy S. Inos has requested an immediate drawdown of $2.2 million from the proposed $7-million line of credit from Marianas Public Land Trust.

The amount will be set aside for the public hospital's next payroll and immediate supplies.

However, MPLT legal counsel Robert Torres admitted that Inos' request has not been acted upon yet by the trustees, pending satisfaction of the loan requirements, which MPLT has long been waiting from the healthcare corporation.

Torres, during the corporation's board meeting yesterday, admitted that MPLT is not convinced that the corporation has the ability to service the $7-million loan based on its current financial standing.

It was disclosed that just for the first $3-million line of credit released in March this year, the corporation is only paying the interest of the amount. He also pointed out that the principal amount is due by March next year.

Torres said MPLT approved the $3-million loan because of an early projection that hospital revenue will ratchet up to $2.5 million monthly as a result of the corporation's then billing contract with Idaho-based International Consulting Services. The said contract was later terminated.

"MPLT only saw that CHC could only service up to $3 million based on its income on that point," he explained to the board.

Citing "willingness" of the MPLT board to assist the hospital, he said trustees even talked about the $7-million supplemental loan for CHC even without the written proposal from the corporation.

Torres said it was only last July 9 when corporation submitted the formal application.

He added that during a recent meeting attended by officials of the corporation, the administration, and MPLT, a consensus was reached that CHC doesn't have the ability to repay the $7 million loan.

According to the MPLT legal counsel, CHC has also yet to draw down the $1.58 million MPLT set aside for its electronic health record system, a project that once set up will be reimbursed by the federal government. It can be recalled that MPLT approved early this year a $4.5 million loan for CHC—$3 million for its operations and $1.5 million for the EHR project.

Before the board meeting ended yesterday, Torres said MPLT stands ready, willing, and able to assist the hospital. But questions remain how the loan will be serviced by the corporation.

MPLT, he added, has a fiduciary responsibility to make sure that its investments are protected.

Meantime, corporation CEO Juan N. Babauta disclosed that they received a letter from the Office of Management and Budget yesterday requesting financial documents for its review. The corporation, he said, is in the process of completing the requested records to satisfy requirements of the MPLT loan.

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Election Commission certifies 82 candidates for mid-term polls

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission board certified yesterday 82 individuals as official candidates in the upcoming mid-term election. The meeting took place at the election commission office just right after the confirmation rites of reappointed board members at the Senate yesterday.

In a three-page resolution adopted yesterday, board chair Frances Sablan and election commission executive director Robert A. Guerrero stated that the agency staff had reviewed all petitions nominating individuals for the Nov. 6 election and which they recommended certification from the board.

Based on election law, candidates must take a leave of absence from their employment at the government office once they are certified by the election commission.

Official contenders for delegate to the U.S. position include the Republican Party's Ignacia Demapan and incumbent Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP).

For Saipan Senate seats, candidates are independent candidate Illuminada Bermudes, Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), the Covenant Party's Ana Teregeyo, and Sen. Luis Crisostomo (R-Saipan).

For Rota, candidates for senators are Senate Presient Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and the GOP's Victor Hocog. For Tinian, aspirants for Senate seats include independent candidate Francisco Borja and the Republican Party's Joaquin Borja.

There are four official candidates for CNMI State Board of Education seats for Saipan: current chair Marylou Ada, Victorino Cepeda, Janice Tenorio, and Angel Hocog. For the Rota-BOE seat, the candidates are Dexter Apatang and Denise Tanya King.

The election commission board also certified two candidates for Saipan & Northern Islands Municipality—Ramon Camacho and Antonia Tudela. For the Tinian municipal council posts, candidates include Patrick Manglona, Eugenio Villagomez, Henry Lizama, Raynaldo Cing, Joseph Cruz, Antonio Borja, and Estevan Cabrera.

For the municipality of Rota, the certified candidates are Alexander Apatang, Prudencio Manglona, Gardner Barcinas, Glenn Maratita, George Hocog, and Robert Ulloa.

For the retention of judges, the election commission certified three candidates—Supreme Court acting chief justice Alexandro Castro and Superior Court associate judges David Wiseman and Perry Inos.

For the House of Representatives, candidates for precinct 1 are led by incumbents House Speaker Eliceo D. Cabrera (R-Saipan) and Reps. Antonio Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind.-Saipan), Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan), and Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan). Also running are independents Roman Benavente and Mariano Taitano, the Covenant Party's Martin Sablan, and the GOP's Vicente Cabrera, Richard Seman, Ramon Dela Cruz, and Jose Limes.

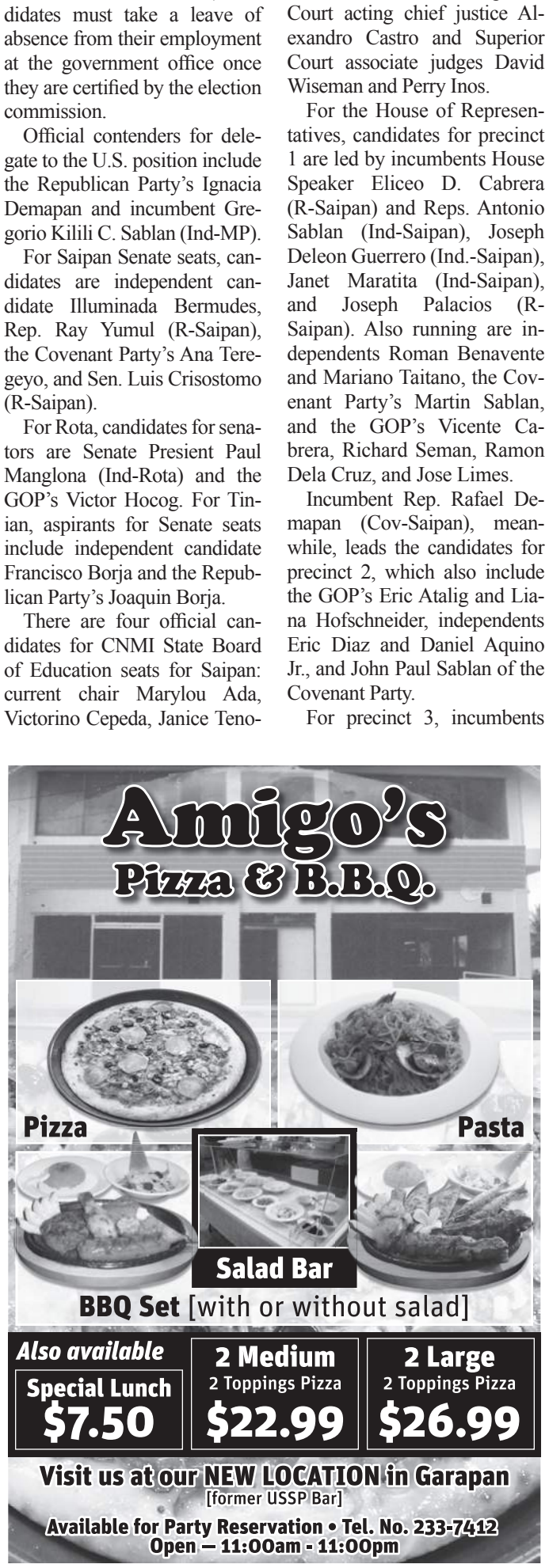
Incumbent Rep. Rafael Demapan (Cov-Saipan), meanwhile, leads the candidates for precinct 2, which also include the GOP's Eric Atalig and Liana Hofschneider, independents Eric Diaz and Daniel Aquino Jr., and John Paul Sablan of the Covenant Party.

For precinct 3, incumbents led by vice speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan) and Reps. Francisco Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan), Ramon Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan), Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), and Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) will be joined in the crowded race by the GOP's Roy Rios, Juan Reyes, Jose Saures, David Maratita, and Jesus Castro, independents Ralph Yumul, Ignacio Cabrera, Raymond Lizama, Mariano Fajardo, and Anthony Benavente, and the Covenant Party's Brian Torres.

Reps. Sylvestre Iguel (R-Saipan) and George Camacho (R-Saipan) are running for reelection in precinct 4. Also certified as candidates for precinct 4 are the Covenant Party's Christopher Leon Guerrero and independent Jesus Wabol Jr.

Candidates for precinct 5, meanwhile, include incumbent Reps. Ramon Basa (R-Saipan) and Frederick Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan). Also running are independents Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero, Antonio Agulto, and Daniel Quitugua and the Democratic Party's Jesse Torres.

For Tinian House seats, Rep. Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian) is running for reelection and he will be challenged by Edwin Aldan of the GOP. For Rota, incumbent Rep. Teresita Santos (R-Rota) will go up against his relative Felix Santos who is running as an independent.



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DUE LACK OF QUORUM

Fund board unable to defend itself against motions

For lack of quorum, the NMI Retirement Fund's Board of Trustees cannot take a position on the two unnamed retirees' motions to prevent the enforcement of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's executive order declaring a state of emergency for the financially troubled NMI Retirement Fund.

Attorney Braddock Huesman, counsel for Fund Board of Trustees Pedro Q. Dela Cruz, Sixto K. Igisomar, and Adelina C. Roberto, said the board currently lacks a quorum and therefore, unable to take any action in defense of its right in this lawsuit.

In yesterday's reply to the motions filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI, Huesman said in an effort to protect the rights of his clients, he, however, objects to the unnamed retirees' motions until such time as the board and its members are able to take corporate action to defend themselves.

"Whether intentional or not, the emergency motions place the board and its members at a disadvantage due to the lack of a quorum," the lawyer said.

Huesman said almost three years ago, the District Court stayed the two unnamed retirees' lawsuit to allow the two to intervene in the Fund's lawsuit filed in Superior Court and enforce their rights, if any.

"Instead of doing so, they have consistently avoided that forum in the hopes of lifting the stay and proceeding in this court," Huesman said.

The two unnamed retirees represented by attorney Bruce Jorgensen recently filed in federal court a motion for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction.

Attorney Jorgensen and co-counsels Robert M. Hatch, Margery S. Bronster, and Stephen C. Woodruff asserted that their motion for TRO and preliminary injunction seeks to prevent Fitial from "illegally seizing the Fund and assuming dictatorial control over it."

Last June 7, Fitial issued Executive Order 2012-06 that suspends the power of the Fund's board of trustees and administrator, and transfers this executive power to Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson.

Fitial then stated that Executive Order 2012-06 shall become effective immediately upon the U.S. District Court Bankruptcy Division's filing of its order dismissing the Fund's Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition.

The two unnamed retirees also moved the federal court to lift the court's stay order of their lawsuit that has been in effect since Jan. 25, 2010.

The unnamed retirees requested the federal court to conduct an expedited hearing in their motion to allow them to lift the existing stay so they can litigate the lawsuit "in the only forum that can now protect their rights."

The District Court in its June 25, 2010 order determined that a stay was necessary in order to afford proper deference to the state court proceedings.

At the time, the Fund has a pending appeal with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit over the federal court's order denying the Fund's motion to dismiss the unnamed retirees' lawsuit. ***(Ferdie De La Torre)***

ANALYSIS

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be cost neutral," said Commonwealth Utilities Corp. acting executive director Alan Fletcher in a July 30 email to assistant attorneys general.

That letter was sent prior to the signing of the PPA and weeks before the Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication called Fletcher to a meeting in the Senate chamber on Aug. 16.

Fletcher emphasized though that economist.com and CUC recommended a full economic analysis prior to formalizing a PPA.

"Without said analysis, there could be unintended surprises down the road," Fletcher said in a July 30 email.

Days later, Fitial and Buckingham signed the PPA with a "guaranteed price" of $190.8 million in 25 years, without the full economic analysis.

When news about the signed PPA broke out on Aug. 15, acting governor Eloy S. Inos asked for a full economic analysis.

That full economic analysis is being done by economist.com, the same firm that recommended such study in the first place.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), a member of the House PUTC Committee, said yesterday that the public should know that economist.com is a consulting firm for CUC.

"I'm afraid that they will provide an analysis favorable to this PPA or else they will lose their consultancy job by the governor," said Dela Cruz.

INOS

From Page 1

ness customers.

The 50-megawatt diesel power plant project could cost the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. some 18 cents per kilowatt-hour, Palacios said, based on initial information available.

This could mean CUC residential customers would be charged only some 20 cents per kWh, which is far lower than the over 30 cents per kWh they pay right now, Palacios added.

"If this power purchase agreement is really going to result in estimated 20 cents or a little more per kWh for residential customers, which is much lower than over 30 cents we are paying now, then this is not a bad agreement after all," Palacios said in an interview at his office yesterday afternoon.

Inos himself is not saying that the PPA is a bad deal, although he's not privy to what transpired right before the governor and former Edward Buckingham signed the agreement on Aug. 3.

"It sounds like it's probably an okay deal but until you plug the numbers out, it would be difficult…" Inos said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* and KSPN 2 during the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' hosting of an appreciation ceremony yesterday.

Inos said completion of a full economic analysis would give the answers.

Such analysis would determine whether the contract is economically feasible, whether investments could be recouped in 25 years, and the reasonable rate that customers could be charged—whether it's going to be 18 cents, 30 cents or higher, per kWh.

Inos said in his view, the shipyard project "would be a worthwhile project," reiterating, however, that he was previously unaware that such project is tied to the power purchase agreement.

He said he asked Fitial, "and he says 'yes, that's what this thing is all about' which to me would be a worthwhile project. The only thing there is that they need the extra real estate and they need to shut down the diesel power plant. Does that mean we have another diesel power plant? That's a policy call."

Saipan Development LLC would build a new 50-megawatt power plant also in Lower Base, and use the area where the current CUC power plant is located for its shipyard project.

Saipan Development LLC's registered agent is Keystone Shipping, which is based also out of Delaware and Pennsylvania. Keystone Shipping's chief executive officer is Donald Kurz.

Kurz and Kenneth Mahmood, part owner of Allegiance Capitol Corp., were on Saipan several times for the shipyard and dry dock investment.

The project would have been at the seaplane ramp area in Lower Base that is the site of a submarine station, a restaurant, and holding area for Tinian boats, as well as CUC's Power Plant 1, Saipan's main power plant.

In April 2009, Allegiance Capitol Corp. told the media that it is interested in "paying for a new power plant" as part of the project. Mahmood at the time claimed the dry dock project would bring in $100 million in revenue a year.

Fitial was also quoted by the media as saying at the time, "I told them I'd only move CUC if they paid for a new power plant. Guess what? They're looking into it."

'Surprised'

Inos said he was surprised not so much about not knowing about the signing of the PPA.

"But I was previously aware of a concept where proponents of a shipyard would want to do this operation here, but they need additional real estate, certainly they're going to need significant amount of power. So it's the combination there…. Okay, if any of the real estate, the only place to go would be the north, and that will be running into the existing power plant. If you still want to push with the project, that power plant is going to move. We don't have any money to be able to build a new power plant. They want it, go in and build it. Then we can talk about how and this and that. But we also would like for them to run it," Inos said.

But he said when one examines the document, referring to the PPA on the $190-million power plant, "there's just no mention of the shipyard."

"All along I was aware of the concept of shipyard with the thing, but not that specific… I'm not saying that it's a bad deal. We're still looking at that," he added.

Saipan Development LLC and the CNMI executed a Power Plant Development and Management Agreement dated March 27, 2012.

That was barely five days after Saipan Development LLC was incorporated in Delaware on March 22, 2012.

Inos also said that the administration will still pursue alternative or renewable energy projects.

Reining in lawmakers

Fitial, through press secretary Angel Demapan, also sent House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) during the weekend a briefing on the power purchase deal with Saipan Development LLC.

In that letter, Fitial said through greater power plant efficiencies, CUC will achieve a minimum 10 percent reduction in the cost of electricity from the current cost to consumers on Saipan.

Fitial's letter to Cabrera came in the midst of finalizing a House minority bloc-led resolution to impeach him. The majority bloc in the House is aligned with Fitial.

The governor, on his way to the Republican National Convention in Florida, will also be in Boise, Idaho for the Labor Day tournament wherein thousands of CNMI voters will be gathered. Besides Fitial, other elected officials and/or their representatives will also be campaigning during the Boise tournament.

ADVICE

From Page 1

a lot of work to support their position. Impeaching a head of state is a very, it's a big deal," Inos said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* and KSPN 2 during the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' hosting of an appreciation ceremony yesterday.

Inos said an impeachment process affects not only the individual being impeached, in this case, the governor, but the whole community as well.

"My advice would be to let's not do this thing in haste, let's make sure there's something they can justify to the public, what they're doing, because the process will take some resources. And we are going to expend public funds to go through this thing and man hours, and so forth, not to mention the pain that people who are affected would have to go through. I would exercise caution in doing this thing," Inos said.

The House minority bloc led by Rep. Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) has been finalizing a resolution to impeach Fitial.

The resolution was initially drafted a few months ago. But recent events made the minority bloc redraft the resolution.

As of yesterday afternoon, that resolution has yet to be pre-filed.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) said the minority bloc is not doing it in haste.

"If we were doing it in haste, we would have pre-filed this already but we're not, because we want to do this correctly and with supporting facts and evidence so he should not worry," Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune.*

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) said last night that he's "on the same page with [the] acting governor" on the matter.

This early, however, ordinary citizens are requesting the Legislature to impeach Fitial for a host of things, through phone calls to individual lawmakers, an online petition, and a one-woman rally asking passing motorists to honk their vehicle horns if they agree with impeaching Fitial. The petition is available at http://www.change.org/petitions/the-cnmi-legislature-impeach-cnmi-governor-benigno-fitial.

But the minority bloc has been proceeding with caution, to meet the constitutional grounds for impeachment.

The NMI Constitution says the Legislature may impeach the governor for "treason, commission of a felony, corruption, or neglect of duty."

One of the most recent issues that the minority bloc is looking at is Fitial's secretive signing of a no-bid 25-year power purchase agreement.

In the 20-member House, at least 14 affirmative votes are needed to impeach the governor. Right now, the governor's allies form the majority in the House.

The nine-member Senate needs at least six affirmative votes to convict.

FEES

From Page 1

A hospital charge description master, also known as a charge master, contains the prices of all services, goods, and procedures for which a separate charge exists.

It is used to generate a patient's bill. For many years, CHC has been using what it described as an "obsolete" program that assesses very minimal fees for services and it provides no cost at all for hospital supplies.

Corporation CEO Juan N. Babauta revealed that for the first time, CHC will be assessing fees on supplies—an item that has been provided free by the cash-strapped public hospital for many years.

"That's one thing we never charge here in the hospital. So this is going to be the first time that we will be assessing fees for supplies," said Babauta, who complimented the hospital's former accounting manager, Esther Muna, who assisted the corporation in developing the new fee schedule.

According to Muna, the new schedule of fees was calculated using the methodology called relatively value unit (RVU) which is used in calculating the Medicare fee structure.

Muna admitted to *Saipan Tribune* that the fee increases are "significant," but she claimed that these are acceptable in the region after making a comparative analysis.

Muna said the drug rates, meantime, are not included in the new master charge and the hospital can charge the cost plus 45 percent overhead for any drug item.

Muna told the board yesterday that with the implementation of the new rates, coupled with the increased efficiency in the hospital's billing section, the corporation can realize better revenue and collection.

At present, the board disclosed that CHC is only generating about $800,000 every month and projected total revenue by the end of the fiscal year is only $9 million to $10 million.

Saipan Tribune learned that prior to the termination of International Consulting Services' contract early this year, the company created a new master charge which Muna described as having a lot of missing and obsolete codes.

Muna cannot, however, quantify the revenue impact of the new rates, citing the need for realistic and actual data such as composition of the paying population at CHC.

Meantime, corporation legal counsel Allen Hazlip admitted that the proposed emergency regulation did not seek comments from other parties such as insurance companies prior to publication in the Commonwealth Register, which provides a 120-day comment period.

In anticipation of the concerns that might be raised by insurance carriers on the increased fees, board members were informed yesterday by the legal counsel that there's no agreement in place between insurance companies and the corporation.

Fitial attends coral reef task force meeting in A. Samoa

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa—The U.S. Coral Reef Task Force held its 28th meeting yesterday at the Tauese P.F. Sunia Ocean Center.

The opening ceremony was led by the task force co-chairs, Interior Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife Eileen Sobeck and National Marine Fisheries Service's Eric Schwaab, CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, and American Samoa Gov. Togiola Tulafono.

Fitial

In his opening remarks, Fitial lauded the task force for shifting this year's focus toward climate change, adding that the reality faced by nations throughout the world today is one of immense threat and considerable danger.

"I place a high priority on climate change because I know that even the smallest of changes can have a large impact on our small islands," said Fitial. "We already know that increased carbon in the atmosphere is leading to global warming, and in turn, is causing more carbon to be absorbed by our oceans and affecting our coral reefs. Thus, we have the daunting task to combat perceived consequences through our present day actions."

The governor also reported that at the regional level, the Micronesian Chief Executives have already begun tackling this issue. Fitial announced that at the 17th Micronesian Chief Executives' Summit in Guam last March, he introduced, and the chief executives adopted, Resolution 17-03. This aims to address the global environmental impact of climate change in Micronesia and urges the implementation of regional response plans within the Micronesia Challenge.

"As a result of the resolution and statement on climate change, we in the CNMI, have now formed our own Climate Change Working Group to address such issues," added Fitial. "The group's main objectives include identifying the communities, livelihoods and ecosystems in CNMI that are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, to identify, address and prioritize adaptation strategies and policies, identify gaps in knowledge and areas for future research and to build capacity within the CNMI public and private sectors to collaborate efforts in dealing with the impacts of climate change."

With regards to the pending coral Endangered Species Act listing, Fitial expressed his and the people of the NMI's deep concerns about the implications of this listing and how it will impact the livelihoods of residents. He noted that he has written a letter to the National Marine Fisheries Service expressing such concerns and the chief executives are also working on a joint letter to further express this as a regional concern.

Because climate change poses tremendous threats to coral reefs, Fitial threw his full support for the Climate Change resolution that is up for consideration at this meeting.

"Our coral reefs are so vital to our livelihoods and culture, yet they are susceptible not only to strong waves generated from extreme weather events, but also to changes in water temperature, salinity, and turbidity, caused by global warming and other man-made activities," stated Fitial. "Undoubtedly, we must join hands to continue the development of advanced methods and capacity to assess the vulnerability and resilience of coral reef ecosystems to climate change."

The All Islands Committee also put forth a resolution, to formulate and implement effective policies and actions to address greenhouse gas emissions before the islands find themselves in a situation far too late to combat the detrimental effects of climate change within their fragile island communities.

In support of this measure, Fitial stated, "I encourage this task force to offer its full endorsement to the Center for Ocean Solutions' scientific consensus statement on Climate Change and Coral Reefs, and to commend the Council of Micronesian Chief Executives and the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures for their actions in bridging science to policy in the area of coral reef protection."

After his remarks, Fitial paid tribute to his longtime colleague, American Samoa Gov. Togiola Tulafono, for his exceptional leadership in efforts to ensure healthy coral reefs continue to exist as an essential legacy for future generations. Tulafono served on the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force from 2000-2012.

"He served faithfully because he believed in the treasured wonders of the ocean and its cultural ties to our ancestors, our present day people, and our young children," said Fitial.

Fitial also served alongside Tulafono since 2006 in the annual meetings of the National Governors Association.

"Through the years that we shared as governors, I have always found comfort in knowing that the CNMI had a partner who shared the common belief that no matter how little or how distant our islands are, our voices must resonate across America," added Fitial.

Fitial presented the outgoing governor of American Samoa with a woodcraft depicting the CNMI seal and the unique scene found on the back of the CNMI quarter. Tulafono and First Lady Maryann also received CNMI lapel pins. ***(Office of Governor)***

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Camacho again finds too lenient 2nd plea deal offered to robbery suspect

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho again has found as too lenient the second proposed plea agreement that would have sent a video store robbery suspect two years and six months in prison without the possibility of parole.

At a change of plea hearing on Wednesday afternoon, Camacho said although defendant Benjamin Jones Castro Jr. has no prior criminal convictions, he finds the severity of his actions warrant a more lengthy jail term.

In rejecting the proposed plea agreement, Camacho found the proposed sentence disproportionate to the crime committed.

"Here the plea is based on defendant's admission that he came up behind the cashier of a video store and choked her, forcing her to open the cash register and surrender the money. This particular use of force is extremely violent and offensive to the court," the judge said.

In the court's view, Camacho said, such means are dangerously close to the use of a weapon, which, if proved would justify a much higher sentence.

In a footnote of his order, Camacho noted that a chokehold can easily result in serious bodily injury, by breaking the windpipe or trachea, or by cutting off the supply of an air to the brain.

"Further, if done by a person with training such a maneuver may conceivably result in a deadly weapon charge," he said.

Under the proposed second plea bargain, Castro seeks to plead guilty to robbery in exchange for two years and six months behind bars, to be served day for day, without the possibility of parole, and with credit for time served.

In rejecting the second plea deal, Camacho said should he accept the agreement Castro would serve two and a half years or 25 percent of the maximum sentence for robbery unless he violates the conditions of the suspended portion of his sentence.

The agreement also seeks to dismiss with prejudice the other two counts of assault and battery, and theft.

In contrast, Camacho pointed out, if Castro went to trial and was convicted of all three charges and they were to run consecutively he would face a maximum of 16 years.

The judge said the terms of the second plea deal represent a very small fraction of the potential punishment in this case.

Camacho noted that he previously rejected the first plea agreement in this case which had identical terms except that the previous agreement reflected a two-year rather than a two-and-a-half year sentence.

"The parties have not advanced any new justification for this disposition.Without a written recommendation the court is left to guess why the addition of six months renders the sentence just in this case," he said.

Camacho

Camacho said he acknowledges that the second plea bargain provides more incarceration, "but not much more."

"The court continues to be concerned that defendant's acceptance of responsibility merely reflects a desire to minimize his punishment rather than any remorse on his part," the judge added.

Camacho is known for rejecting lenient plea agreements and imposing maximum jail sentences.

Assistant attorney general Darren Robinson represented the government. Assistant public defender Daniel Guidotti appeared as counsel for Castro.

Police said a 23-year-old female cashier sustained moderate injuries in the right jaw when Castro allegedly robbed Hollywood Video in San Jose on Feb. 24, 2012. The defendant allegedly took $379 cash from the cash register.

The cashier managed to jot down the license plate of the suspect's getaway vehicle, enabling the police to identify him.

A few days later after the robbery, Castro surrendered to police.

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BESIDES RURAL HEALTHCARE, WOMEN VETS

Veterans Affairs tackles homelessness among vets in Pacific Islands

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has made "great" progress the last few years in addressing homelessness among veterans—one of the areas that the federal agency is focused on as part of its efforts to bring about a "more effective" system in taking care of those who have served in the nation's armed forces.

Dr. James E. Hastings, director of Pacific Island Health Care System, said yesterday that the Veterans Affairs now has "major commitment" in dealing with the special issue of homelessness among veterans, unlike six years ago when he first joined the organization.

Hastings gave credit to Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki for the agency's commitment in the many changes being effected in the organization and in addressing the homelessness problem which they seek to end in three more years.

"If I see a homeless veteran on the street today, I can have him in a safe, good place to sleep the night and I can have resources available to help him get his life back on track and back to becoming a productive member of the society," he said.

A cardiologist and educator, Hastings was on island to host the Veterans Appreciation and Outreach event held at the ground floor lobby of MH II Building at the Marina Heights Business Park, which houses the Saipan VA Clinic.

Accompanying him were Tracey A. Betts, director of the VA Veterans Benefits Administration, and Craig Oswald and Tommy Driskill of the VA Pacific Islands Health Care System in Hawaii.

Hastings revealed that in Hawaii alone, 40 percent of homeless veterans have been housed.

"We've achieved that in the last five years, working collaboratively with community agencies," he said. "It's very much a team effort but I can tell you we've accomplished a great deal."

Hastings noted, though, that he is not aware of how the homelessness situation is addressed in the rest of the U.S. "I can only expect that they have been successful also."

VA is also "changing and evolving" in key areas other than homelessness, which also affect veterans throughout the nation, according to Hastings. Significant efforts can be noted in developing rural healthcare nowadays, as opposed to giving emphasis in metropolitan areas over 50 years ago.

He cited their work in expanding operations by going out to more isolated areas to allow the system to care for veterans and improve their quality of life near their homes, thus eliminating the need to put them in hospitals.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Dr. James E. Hastings, director of Veterans Affairs Pacific Island Health Care System, addresses CNMI veterans during the appreciation and outreach event held yesterday at the MH II Bldg. lobby, Marina Heights Business Park.

Hastings also touted their "very impressive" involvement in caring for women veterans, considering that women account for 15 percent of the forces deployed in war areas like Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We are transforming the organization so it's sensitive to the special problems that women veterans have. We're developing that across the system," he added.

Hastings described the VA as a healthcare system "more comprehensive than anybody else in the world," and this is made possible through collaboration and partnerships with other groups within the society.

"We found out that it's an effective way to continue to grow and provide services. What you are all seeing is an example of how we are developing systems to support you," he said.

Betts, for her part, emphasized the "transformation" that the VA is going through to improve its services for the veterans in the Pacific Islands, including the web-based application My HealtheVet and the enhancement of the Guam office, which has increased its staff number.

Yesterday's event was also attended by acting governor Eloy S. Inos who expressed his appreciation to the visiting officials on behalf of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for extending programs that benefit veterans here in the CNMI.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) also acknowledged the VA for providing easier access of basic health services for veterans in the CNMI. He also thanked Ret. Sgt. Maj. Frank Cepeda, former governor Juan N. Babauta, former resident representative Pete A. Tenorio, Ruth Coleman, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3457 for their efforts in making the VA Clinic on island possible.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Puerto Rico Dump Closure – Phase I, Consensus Building;

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands through the Capitol Improvement Project Office (CIP) is currently considering several ideas and design concepts for the closure of the Puerto Rico Dump (PRD), the subsequent use and development of the site an adjacent area in accordance with regulatory requirements.

A preliminary report evaluating these concepts has been prepared. The report and plans were developed in close coordination with interested stakeholders, and local and federal regulatory agencies. The PRD closure concepts range in scope, public benefit, aesthetic value, and cost. The concepts are briefly described as follows:

1. Minor modifications to the existing site to minimize closure costs, and environmental impacts.
2. Incinerating waste on-site.
3. Removal of the waste (Clean closing) to the Marpi Depression solid Waste Facility.
4. Reducing the height of the dump site by moving a portion of the waste to Marpi, capping and closing the dump site, and enhancing the property to serve as a park area that would provide pedestrian walkways, and recreation areas.
5. Further enhancing the site by providing waterfront / marine facilities.

The CIP Office would like to provide the interested public an opportunity to review the preliminary report and proposed closure plans in detail, and to provide their written comments to the CIP Office Administrator, Ms. Vickie Villagomez. The report and concept plans are available for review at the CIP Office in Capitol Hill during normal working hours beginning on August 27th and will remain available for comment through September 14th, 2012. After September 14, written comments received will be taken into consideration in selecting the final closure program.

'Extend veteran healthcare to Tinian, Rota'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

While veterans in the Northern Marianas now have easier access to basic health services owing to a Veterans Affairs clinic on Saipan, more work still needs to be done to be able to facilitate these services for veterans on Tinian and Rota, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP).

"Veterans on those islands should not have to fly to another island to access basic VA services, and there are disabled veterans on those islands for whom even a short trip to Saipan is difficult," Sablan said yesterday.

Sablan made the remark at the Veterans Appreciation and Outreach event hosted by the VA Pacific Island Health Care System at the ground floor lobby of MH II Bldg. at Marina Heights Business Park.

Sablan

Attending the event were acting governor Eloy S. Inos, director James E. Hastings of the VA Pacific Island Health Care System, director Tracey A. Betts of the VA Veterans Benefits Administration, Craig Oswald, and Tommy Driskill also of the VA Pacific Islands Health Care System of Hawaii.

Veterans in the CNMI, Sablan said, face the challenge of having to fly out to another island since some of the services they need are not available in the Commonwealth. He said traveling is not easy when the veteran is not feeling well or getting a little older.

"No one wants to leave the support of family behind or the comforts of being in your own home when you're ill or in need of medical care… Combat and disabled veterans in particular suffer because of the length they have to go to get care and treatment," added Sablan.

Still, he acknowledged the efforts that paved the way for the Saipan VA Outreach Clinic to be established on island, which did not have "an easy start."

"The clinic is for you," Sablan told the veterans. "It is one of the ways to show our respect for you and for the sacrifices that you and your families made for our country. It's one of the ways to say thank you for your service. It is the first step towards increasing the VA presence in the Northern Marianas."

Besides expanding basic health services, Sablan also noted the need to reduce red tape to ensure referrals to Guam and Hawaii, as well as quick reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses for veterans' care.

Flashback
A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 24, 2000

Govt expects growth in excise tax collection
The increased vigilance against unscrupulous customs personnel and the slow recovery of the islands' tourism industry are beginning to bear good fruits for the CNMI government, which expects significant growth in excise tax collection this year. In fact, the CNMI Customs Division has projected that excise taxes collected from Northern Marianas-bound luxury items will exceed the $24 million level registered during the last year. In the period covering the first 10 months of the Fiscal Year 2000, the Customs Division has already collected over $23 million in excise taxes imposed in several categories of Saipan-bound items.

NMIRF: Health providers will have to wait
NMI Retirement Fund Administrator Juan S. Torres yesterday maintained that the two health providers in Hawaii seeking more than $4 million in payment will have to wait for the availability of funds and until the time each billings submitted by the hospitals have been thoroughly evaluated. Mr. Torres said an initial review of the accounts sent to the Fund showed that a huge amount billed to the Group Health & Life Insurance should not even be paid by the government's health insurance. He noted that one patient's hospital bills amounted to $300,000 when the member's policy only allows for a reimbursement of $50,000. "We are not saying that the claims are not real, but the issue here is who will pay for that? We are only obligated to pay a certain amount and not beyond the ones covered by the policy," he added.

Aug. 24, 2001

DOF: No money from tobacco deal yet
Acting Finance Secretary Robert Schrack denied that the Department of Finance has already received the second tranche of the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement, saying that what they have at the moment is $4,000-not $1 million as reportedly claimed by the Attorney General's Office. During an interview yesterday, Schrack also denied the allegation of AGO consumer counsel David Lochabay that the tobacco trust fund does not exist, saying that since the passage of Public Law 12-44, the finance department has already set up a separate account that will receive the ensuing tranches of the tobacco settlement fund. "When the first tranche of the tobacco settlement fund came in, it was absorbed into the General Fund as there was no law yet providing guidelines on how the money is to be spent. However, since the passage of Public Law 12-44, a separate account has been set up for this purpose so that any money coming from the tobacco settlement fund would go directly to that," Schrack said.

Aug. 24, 2002

'Project Assisti' raised some $15K
The Rotary Club of Saipan announced Friday that "Project Assisti" was a huge success, raising about $15,000 in pledges in just two hours of broadcast over Saipan's four radio stations. Torres's As of Aug. 22, the Rotary Club said some $14,768 has been collected for the disaster relief project. Additionally, the Rotary Club received clothing and canned food donations from residents and private companies. The Rotary Club of Saipan has set things in motion and is coordinating with the island's pharmaceutical company, the Commonwealth Health Center, the Public Health Department of Chuuk and other key personnel to insure that the proper and most essential medical supplies are procured.

Fund investments drop to $302M
As expected, the stock market bloodbath last month wiped out considerable gains made by international investments of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund since 9-11, posting a 6.24-percent decline in July when compared to the previous month. The market value of the Fund's international exposures last month came in at $302.96 million, down from June's $323.14 million or a loss of $20.18 million. This is the fourth straight month that the market value of the Fund's international investments have been dropping but what is staggering is that July's $302.96 million is even much lower than the $312 million that was posted just after the September 11 attacks. Surprisingly, it was not the equities that tool the brunt of the beating but fixed income instruments, which posted a hefty 13.56 percent decline, from June's $87.25 million to July's $75.42 million, equivalent to losses amounting to $11.83 million.

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- Lotus Rice 50lbs. — $25.99
- Saipan Ice Water 500ml — $5.99 CASE
- Betty Crocker Pancake Mix 32oz. — $2.99
- Ichiban — $10.99 CASE
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- Whole Chicken 30lbs — $38.99
- Pork Spareribs 20lbs — $22.99
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- King Chef Vegetable Oil 5gal — $31.99
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- Spam All Kinds — $2.39 EA
- Black Label Luncheon — $1.79 EA.
- Libby's Vienna Sausage — 65¢ 5 OZ.
- Armour Vienna Sausage — 55¢ 5 OZ.
- Sunflower Tuna — $1.45 7 OZ.
- Ace of Diamond Tuna — $1.45 7 OZ.
- Beach Cliff Sardines — 99¢
- Century Tuna — 89¢ 7 OZ.
- Waioka Tuna — 89¢
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- Del Monte 100% Pineapple Juice — $1.99 1.36 L
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- Kruataia Coconut Milk — 99¢
- General Mills Tri-pak — $8.99
- Argo Corn Starch — 99¢ 1 LB.
- Gold Medal Flour — $3.25 37.02 OZ.
- Duncan Hines Cake Mix — $1.99
- DelMonte Ketchup — $4.69 2.64 OZ.
- Royal Spaghetti Noodle — $2.49 1 kg.
- Foremost Milk — $20.99
- White Sugar 2kg — $2.79 2 KG.
- Nongshim Bowl Noodle — $8.49 BOX
- Chorizos — $14.99 3 LBS.
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- Tang Orange — $7.99 22 QTS.
- Kool-Aid — $7.99 34 QTS.
- Coffee Mate — $7.99 50 OZ.
- Folgers Coffee — $11.99 33.3 OZ.
- Maxwell Coffee Mix — $7.99 100CT.
- Fresco Vegetable Oil — $9.49 1 GAL.
- Dragon Vegetable Oil — $9.49 1 GAL.
- Golden State Vinegar — $3.99 2 1 GAL.
- Wilkins Water — $2.99 6000ML
- Pringles (All Kinds) — $1.99

BEVERAGE

- Capri Sun — $2.99 BOX
- Kool-Aid Jammers/ Caprisun — $2.99 BOX
- Sunkist — $6.99 CASE
- Ruby Kist Orange Juice — $3.99 64oz.
- Ruby Kist Apple Juice — $3.99 64oz.
- Pepsi Lite Can — $11.99 CASE LIMIT
- Jinro Soju — $29.99 CASE
- Budweiser/Bud Light cold/warm — $30.00 CASE
- Hite Can — $16.99 CASE

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- Gain Powder — $15.99 102 Loads / $16.99 120 Loads
- Joy Ultra — $1.49 12.5 OZ. / $6.99 90 OZ.
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- Suave Shampoo & Conditioner — 2 for $3.00
- Head & Shoulders Shampoo — $7.99 23OZ. / 2 in 1 w/ Almond oil $4.99
- Huggies Big — $18.99 BOX
- Luvs Big — $16.99 BOX
- Bounty Paper Towel — $19.99 15 Rolls
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- Charmin Basic Toilet Paper — $8.29 12ROLLS / $14.99 24ROLLS
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ONE STOP SHOP WITH THE LOWEST PRICES ON ISLAND!

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Affirming affirmative action

The Obama administration is asking the Supreme Court to reaffirm the right of public universities—particularly competitive and prestigious ones—to consider race as a factor in admissions decisions. This welcome and forceful endorsement of affirmative action comes in a friend-of-the-court brief filed by the Justice Department in a case challenging admissions policies at the University of Texas at Austin.

The fact of the administration's intervention may be more influential than its specific arguments, which reflect the somewhat convoluted reasoning the court has adopted in upholding racial preferences in university admissions. For example, the brief by Solicitor Gen. Donald B. Verrilli Jr. emphasizes that Texas considers race as "one factor among many" in a "holistic" admissions process and does not engage in racial quotas.

True enough, but as the brief also acknowledges, Texas seeks to enroll a "critical mass" of minorities, a process in which "statewide demographics" may be relevant. Critical mass is necessary if African Americans and other minorities are to be represented in significant numbers in settings, such as university ROTCs, that prepare young people for leadership.

One of the most persuasive arguments for some racial preferences is that the underrepresentation of African Americans in the ranks of the highest-achieving college applicants is inseparable from this country's legacy of racial discrimination. Far from offending the 14th Amendment's guarantee of equal protection of the laws, such policies are consistent with that amendment's paramount objective of overcoming the effects of slavery.

The problem is that, beginning with the court's 1978 decision in the Bakke case from California, affirmative action has been based on a different rationale: that including students from different backgrounds enhances everyone's educational experience. That "diversity" justification, which looms large in the administration's brief, is valid as far as it goes. But it gives insufficient weight to the persistent racial disparities in income and education that continue to put minority applicants at a disadvantage.

However it is defended, the constitutionality of affirmative action is the law of the land. The administration's brief convincingly argues that Texas' plan satisfies the requirements spelled out by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor in a 2003 ruling upholding an affirmative action plan at the University of Michigan Law School. In that decision, O'Connor wrote that a critical mass of minority students promotes "cross-racial understanding" and helps to break down racial stereotypes.

Since then, O'Connor has been replaced by Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. Yet an important precedent shouldn't fall simply because of a personnel change on the court. Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr.has been skeptical of race-conscious policies, but he also has acknowledged that there is a "jolt to the legal system" when a precedent is overturned. As the administration effectively argues, no such jolt is justified in the Texas case.

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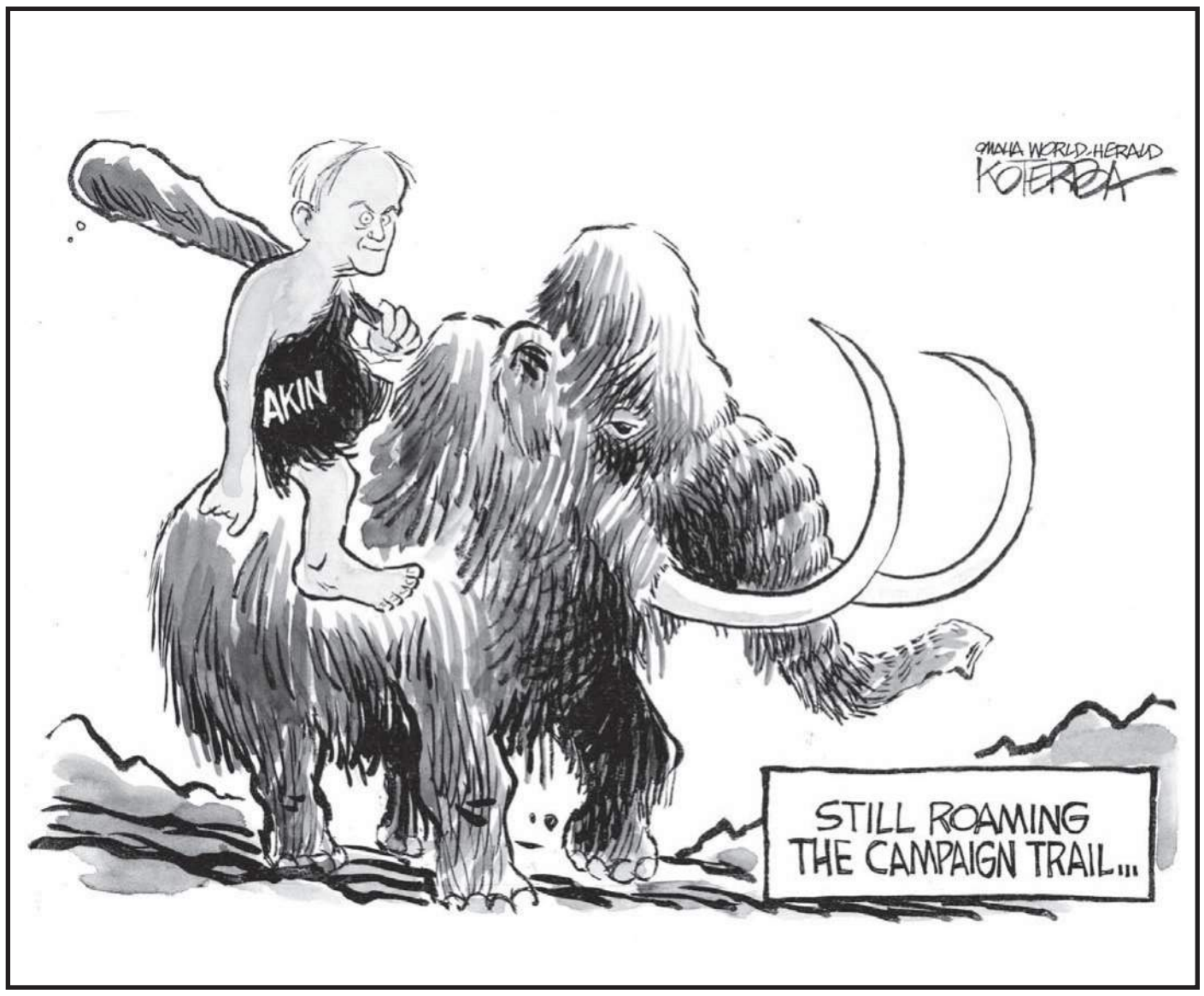

Old jokes, new laughs

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the *Saipan Tribune*

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at Tropical Ed.com. Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday.

Humor is a funny thing. Though it comes across as frivolous, it's serious business with calculated expertise behind it. This week marked the passing of comedian Phyllis Diller, 95, which inspired me to watch a few YouTube videos of her routines from the '60s and '70s. Then I started watching videos of other comedians in the same general era. The thing that jumped out at me was just how strong the comedy "shtick" was in those days. Diller was one of the best. Shtick is always around us, but I think Diller was part of the golden age.

Diller's shtick was to appear frumpy and disheveled, delivering self-effacing jokes about her looks and anecdotes about her boozing husband who she called "Fang." She had a cackling laugh and brandished a cigarette holder.

There are surely very ponderous and formal definitions of shtick out there. But since I'm just a guy in a beach chair, I'll just define it as a distinctive persona and narrative perspective. It's basically calculated showmanship.

But "calculated" does not always mean phony. Sure, most shtick is contrived. But some, by contrast, merely emphasizes certain elements of someone's personality.

Anyway, back to Diller. Her jokes were a bit R-rated sometimes. It was corny, cocktail-lounge type humor for the grownups after the kiddies had been safely tucked in bed. It didn't have to always be the funniest stuff in the world to be effective. It was what is was. And it didn't put on airs of being what it wasn't. That was part of its appeal.

A great example of shtick was Dean Martin. He came across as the suave, good-natured playboy with a martini in one hand and cigarette in the other.

And when it comes to shtick, comedian Rodney Dangerfield was famous for it. He acted like the hapless chump who got no respect.

My take is that Dangerfield was sort of how "every man" felt about himself, never getting his share of good breaks in life, while Martin's charmed existence made him the image of what every man wanted to be.

Martin was teamed up with comedian Jerry Lewis for a long time, with Lewis being the comedic goof-ball, and the contrast played well. We're talking a long time ago, the late '40s and the '50s. Famous shtick, that.

Shtick has a mighty broad base, it's not just limited to comedy.

For example, my favorite writer, Hunter S. Thompson, had a lot of shtick. The man was his writing, and his writing was the man. There was nothing phony about it. Still, it was also a calculated image, with bottles of booze always conspicuously in hand (namely, his) for various public appearances.

Some contemporary examples of shtick would be pop-music stars such as Madonna and Lady Gaga, coming across as glamorously naughty.

But even classical music can have some shtick. The Chinese pianist Yuja Wang sometimes makes American newspaper headlines by wearing sexy dresses for her recitals. I don't know if that really qualifies as full-blown shtick, maybe it's more like a tactic of showmanship. But however you feel about it, or however you define it, well, there it is.

Meanwhile, moving from the concert hall to the trailer park, comedian Jeff Foxworthy hit big time fame with his "redneck" shtick.

All of the above are very obvious, even flamboyant, examples of shtick. But some of the best shtick is subtle, being camouflaged as the ordinary. One great writer was the humorist Erma Bombeck, who wrote about the daily routines and situations of being a housewife and mother.

I'll offer this example to consider: "When my kids become wild and unruly, I use a nice, safe playpen. When they're finished, I climb out."

Few readers will really think that she spends time in a playpen. They understand that she's taking wry license to make a point, painting the image of a harried, sometimes overwhelmed mother. See? Shtick. And artfully done shtick, at that, as a mixture of the mundane (unruly kids) and the absurd (a lady in a playpen). Bombeck also had a way of being irreverent without being a carping cynic, which is a very tough feat to pull off.

Well, that's not an encyclopedic survey of the gig, just a few random examples that popped into my head. The new shtick doesn't really interest me. But the old stuff was fun. However, it's getting so old now that many people have never seen it. For those On Saipan who want to lighten up and have a laugh or two, web-surfing to some old shtick might be just the ticket. It might be one of the most redeeming things about the Internet, at least if I can reach my computer from the beach chair in my playpen.

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Ms. Kiki at the travel agency

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

When we needed a much coveted rail sleeper berth from Shenyang to Inner Mongolia, we lucked out on the mother of one of our young English students who evidently knew someone to call. When we went to pick up our ticket, it was not at the rail station but at a travel agency. Our friendly agent introduced herself as Ms. Kiki. She might have noticed the grin that suddenly erupted from my face!

On that same day, a colleague lent me a Philippine Madrigal Singers' CD with the complaint that the soprano singers tended to sound *boses kiki*, a common Pinoy euphemism for a high-pitched discordant female voice. My friend meant that the otherwise world-famous singers in the CD resort to a shrill operatic voice in some of the renditions, a not too comfortable sound to melody-prone ears. It is just like listening to Beijing Opera and pretending that one is solemnly ecstatic in the listening!

We are not using it in our reflection to gross out Pinoys familiar with the use of the term in street talk. Its widespread use has innocuously demythologized its crashness. I am reminded of the pastor in the late '60s on the Westside of Chicago who kept using the F-word when he talked and in his lectures. When he noticed my discomfort, he asked, "How long have you been in the neighborhood? Sometimes, the F-word is a term of endearment." I got used to being addressed by friends as a MF**cker quickly!

The fecal stuff, no sh*t, is happening in Seattle as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is out to reinvent the toilet for the world. China is in attendance, and believe you me, in our last trip to northeast China and Inner Mongolia where we used a lot of public WCs, that is one department the Zhongguoren can use a lot of serious help.

Nor are we using the Pinoy slang for its shock value to cross some conventional border. After all, mainstream print media is headlining three members of the Russian Pussy Riot, a feminist punk rock collective in Moscow that performs politically provocative songs in unusual places. They intruded at Moscow's Cathedral of Christ the Savior to air their anti-Putin and anti-Russian Orthodox Church sentiments. Three were sentenced to two years in prison for hooliganism aimed at inciting religious hatred.

Feminists in Europe have transformed nudity as a protest tactic, a potent method of confronting armed personnel, effective and devastating, like the SF flower-in-your hair naiveté in my time.

Pussy in this instance refers to more than just the cuddly feline variety. But Putin, with his muscle-flexing macho bravado, has his first 100-days as president defined by the Pussy Riot girls. He has been on a defensive mood of late, not just on the girls, but in response to anyone who is outside the ex-KGB's adoring groupie.

We noticed when the *Vagina Monologue* was performed on Saipan, that not a few were upset with the V-word, which is not surprising. We wrote not too long ago that the Pacific Northwest magazine *Yes* quotes in its last issue the monologue's question of why the word "vagina" upsets more people than the word 'scud missile'!

Speaking of magazines, *Kiki* magazine comes out of Covington, KY, across the river from Cincinnati, hardly a literary haven for radicals. Founded and produced by a Mom whose tween-daughters came home from school with a magazine on dogs because it is the only publication of interest from the school library, she decided to publish her own. It has since become an award-winning publication for third-to-10th grade girls,

We are only too familiar with sensational magazines that thrive in letting readers vicariously live the exploits and affairs of stars and public figures. Kiki not only keeps an eye on fashion issues, health, and hygiene, but do so from a reality perspective that honors the intelligence of its young female readers. Girls are encouraged to create rather than consume, and one reads about real people dealing with such relevant issues as education standards and the like.

BTW, our smile did not turn into a smirk when we met Ms. Kiki of our travel agency.

Beijing hosted the Fourth UN Conference on Women in 1995, and though Mao popularized the saying that "women hold half of the sky," the deep-seated preference for a male child over a daughter still prevails in China today. At the university, it is very clear which gender understands who and how to wield power. Gender charm leads straight to Paris for the unchallenged allure of the female of the specie, while the men remain unwashed and lost, addicted to endless escapist computer games in dark rooms. A senior male student last year committed suicide because his girlfriend broke up with him shortly before graduation. The forlorn heart turned lethal. The mini-skirt just went away sans a mourn of care.

Convent morality is what we grew up with. We knew of a 75-year-old bonhomie, caught happily entwined to a willing house helper in *flagrante delicto*, chastised for his predilection. Some of us quietly saluted the vet for being able to stand up when the colors were raised! Hypocrisy is still the silken garment of public choice, while reality knows no face under linen covers.

May attempt a border crossing into North Korea since it is our neighbor. Thus, I have one good reason to get back to Ms. Kiki, and I do not mean getting her a copy of the KY magazine of her namesake!

Do-Nothing...Did Nothing!

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of Department of Public Lands.*

It was a strange road that forks off Death Valley in Papago. The lush green hills rolled up Mt. Tagpochau silhouetted by a setting sun. The glare hides a relevant road sign declaring, "Do-Nothing" on the left side, "Did Nothing" on the right side. I was like, "Wow! What masterful stroke of genius!"

For a while, I tried to ignore the lingering metaphor's fearfully troubling message, you know, the embarrassing velleity—weakest form of desire to do right but unaccompanied by commitment—that has deepened hardship in the islands.

It kept echoing in my mind even after I passed the area. What does it represent? Hopelessness? Deepening paralysis from fiscal implosion and accompanying calamity? What's the root of this mess? Is it the obvious lack of leadership? Or is it just the figment of my imagination?

I was hoping for the latter but the truth is too difficult to ignore. It was a haunting message that started unraveling after the announced plan to impeach the governor, preceded by use of DPS personnel to shield the former AG from receiving the court-issued penal summons unsuccessfully, doctors and nurses resigning; impending bankruptcy of the Fund; and, the mystery power plant contract of $190 million that came crawling out of the governor's office.

Why did the governor allow filthy socio-political phthisis—total waste away—of opportunities to do something timely to ease the steady downward spiral of the livelihood of governance headed to the abyss of abject poverty? Why the homophobic demeanor by some legislators to face the beast of impeachment and actually make a difference? Why the voluntary emasculation of your authority? Are you in collusion with the administration to ensure that the lives of your people continue sliding into the unbearable miseries of a listless economy?

How admirable the proactive role and courage of responsible observers. They have said their piece about the absence or lack of leadership in the islands. Some have doubled up hoping to jolt the release of the rigor mortis upstairs but apathy came cascading down. We had to step aside as a mystery power generation contract came crashing down the ravines of the hill. Quipped an op-ed writer, "JR! More may be hatching up there was we speak".

Obviously, trust no longer exists in this administration. It forcibly focuses the laser beam of conscience against people at the helm who have neglected their fiduciary responsibilities for far too long. Is voter demand that they move out of the way too large a pill to swallow? Is it their desire to perpetuate apathy and the resulting accumulation of misery here? Would not conscience and humility set the stage for failed leadership to step aside so governance can start anew?

The forked road of "Do-Nothing" and "Did-Nothing" is a far elixir—fitting answer—from the experience governance has had to endure in total abandon. Hope someone is listening while the headwind is calm and the rough seas navigable.

The deepening mess was never the trust governance surrendered when it handed the trophy of leadership to a now nouvelle dismissive and arrogant administration eight years ago. Nor does governance deserve the piling heap of hardship that has already crossed the threshold of their tolerance level. It's now a dinner table matter we mull as we pray for another complete meal the next day. The mess is too serious to ignore. Brace for it!

■ ■ ■

For dissenting statists

Definitely, those who work with the powers that be see the hardship downstairs from a substantially different prism. It's business as usual!

The mounting mess at home can easily be attributed to length of term of career politicians who've opted to ignore accountability at every turn. It now inflicts abusive use of power by fiat whimsically.

Though there may be hideous subtleties of corruption in progress daily, it should dawn upon purveyors that it's too difficult to throw or hide them under the rugs. Sooner than later, the strong rotting scent would permeate the entire room, the stench unbearably too powerful for normal human beings. Most people would exit before maggots begin crawling out of the cushy carpet. Point is: there's nothing under the sun that could be hidden, permanently.

The NMI is broke and we're left in complete abandon to fend for ourselves. Politicians toy with our health and wellbeing ignoring the requisite seed funds for CHC and other basic needs. As leadership fails on this score, more of our dedicated doctors and nurses leave. It's hard enough going the extra mile as dedicated professionals. But they aren't ready to shoulder the blame that filthy politics has wrought against our only public hospital.

The Fund would also go broke in less than two years. Other essential services would cave into bankruptcy given the consistent disappearance of revenue streams. As fiscal calamities take their toll against this administration, we sit under your favorite coconut tree pondering if this (new hellish hole) is the paradise we voted for eight years ago. With dismissive arrogance, is there really hope to rebuild the bridges that came tumbling down under the wobbly disposition by an obvious leadership who's lost Christian humility and compassion?

■ ■ ■

The hellish land of despair

When you hear the crafty expression of "the sky's the limit," it usually means people still have hope that something would break for the better. Yes, difficult the times may be, they still have some reserves in their grand sense of hope that the dark would soon turn to light.

But when their tune changes to "back to basics," then it depicts their having exhausted what's left in their bags of hardship and ready to head somewhere for greater opportunities for their families and business startups.

It's good listening to your people on a shoulder-to-shoulder basis at the village level where we once stood together. It's a level playing field where we both could hear some meaningful conversations once more. It's time to engage in this form of conversation given the truth that comes from the people you're representing in our governmental institutions. It begins and ends on government doing what must be done with the "consent of the governed".

Leadership is the ability to place the interest of others over yours. Is this how you see it or has your vision shifted elsewhere thus the negligence in perpetuity? Is dystopia and the consequence of famine your crowned achievement? Do we settle for "Do-Nothing" and "Did-Nothing?"

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds around 10 mph becoming east saturday.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼75°	▲87 ° ▼75°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

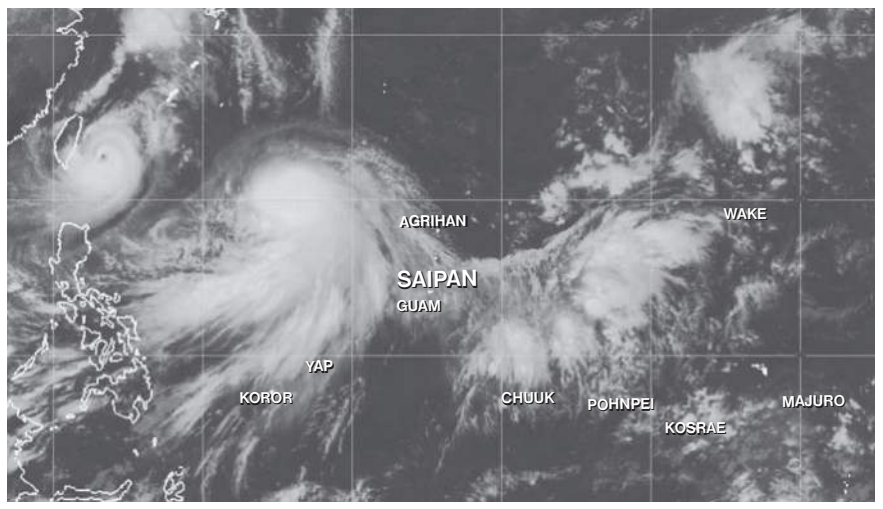
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼75
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼76
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼76
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼75
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲62	▼50
Beijing	Sunny	▲84	▼62
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲88	▼81
Honolulu	Sunny	▲86	▼76
London	Rain	▲69	▼57
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼63
Manila	Thundershowers	▲83	▼79
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲58	▼42
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89	▼80
New York	Cloudy	▲87	▼69
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲92	▼76
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼56
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼79
Rome	Sunny	▲93	▼71
Salem	Sunny	▲78	▼51
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼54
Seoul	Cloudy	▲84	▼74
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼76
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲90	▼72

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Bolaven (16W) is centered 760 miles west-northwest of Saipan near 20N135E and is moving west at 6 mph with maximum sustained winds of 105 mph. Heavy rain and isolated thunderstorms are occurring mainly southeast of the center between 21N and 17N from 134E to 141E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms extending south and west of Bolaven are found north of Yap and Koror between 17N and 10N from 130E to 142E. For more detailed information on typhoon Bolaven, See bulletins issued by the national weather service under WMO header WTPQ32 PGUM and the joint typhoon warning center under WMO header WTPN32 PGTW. Low-level convergence is generating scattered showers well south of Yap south of a line from 2N134E to 2N143E. An upper-level low centered northwest of Wake Island near 25N159E and a surface trough stretching northeastward from 20N156E to 25N165E are combining to produce scattered showers and thunderstorms southeast of Minami Torishima within 100 miles of a line from 19N153E to 23N160E and north of Wake Island north of a line from 22N163E to 22N169E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:24 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
7:44 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
2:26 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
7:38 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:04 AM	6:34 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:34 PM
Sunday	6:04 AM	6:33 PM
Monday	6:04 AM	6:33 PM
Tuesday	6:04 AM	6:32 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:58 AM	11:38 PM
Saturday	12:58 PM	-
Sunday	1:58PM	12:36 AM
Monday	2:54PM	1:35 AM
Tuesday	3:47PM	2:35 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 14, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:30am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
0Z606/120	2:20am	8:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/120	2:50am	8:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via SPN
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL286	7:40pm	12:15am +1	2, 4, 6, 7
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

'How to write a business plan' in this week's SBDC workshop

The CNMI Small Business Development Center training workshop this week is "How to write a business plan." The workshop is set from 9am to 11am at the Familia Building, first floor, Saipan Chamber of Commerce Conference room in Garapan, Saipan. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday Mama Auring. We wish you more birthdays to come and good health. We love you. Greeting from Joanie, Joseph, Brianna, and Joshua.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday Mike Delos Reyes. May you have many more to come. Enjoy your day. Greetings from friends and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kilili welcomes $3.2M child tax credit payments

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan said yesterday that he welcomes the announcement that $3.2 million in federal child tax credit checks are being distributed to families in the Northern Mariana Islands.

But the congressman also warned that the so-called "Ryan plan," passed by the Republican majority in the U.S. House of Representatives this year, will cut this important tax benefit.

"I know that families in the Northern Marianas will be able to put their tax credit checks to good use right now," Sablan said. "With school starting there are always expenses for clothes and supplies; and the child tax credit that many families are getting will help meet those costs.

"An extra $3.2 million into our local economy is also very good news for our businesses in these tough times."

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, one of the first bills Sablan voted on as the Northern Marianas representative in Congress, made the child tax credit available to many low-income families in the Marianas.

Sablan

Before the Recovery Act, taxpayers with dependent children under age 17 needed at least $8,500 in income to benefit from the credit. But the Recovery Act lowered the income threshold to $3,000.

The Recovery Act also assured that the money would be available for people in the Northern Marianas by requiring that the U.S. Treasury cover over the needed funds to the Commonwealth government.

"We always have to be careful when we make changes in the federal tax code," Sablan said. "We don't want the Commonwealth government to lose revenues.

"That's why the cover-over provision in the Recovery Act was so important.

"With the cover-over our families get $3.2 million. But the Commonwealth government doesn't lose $3.2 million. It's all federal money."

Ryan plan threatens tax credit after 2012

When the Democratic Congress passed the Recovery Act in 2009 it set the maximum child tax credit at $1,000 per child for the years 2009 and 2010. Later, in 2010, Democrats extended the $1,000 maximum through 2012.

But the budget plan passed by the Republican majority in the U.S. House of Representatives this year makes no provision to keep the $1,000 maximum beyond 2012.

The Ryan plan also makes no provision to continue the cover-over to the territories, creating a further burden to the cash-strapped Commonwealth government who may decide that it does not have the cash to continue the child tax credit payments that is most helpful to families in the Northern Marianas at this time.

"The budget plan prepared by Congressman Paul Ryan is called the 'Pathway to Prosperity,'" Kilili said.

"But if the Ryan plan becomes law it will mean less money—and less prosperity—for families in the Northern Marianas." ***(PR)***

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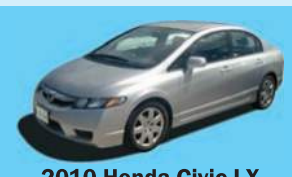
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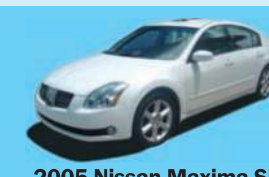
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CAMPUS BULLETIN

ChaCha Ocean View sets orientations for 7th, 8th grade students

ChaCha Ocean View High School will be having an orientation for 7th grade students on Aug. 30, from 9am to 10:30am and 8th grade students will be on Aug. 31, from 9am to 10:30am in the school cafeteria.

For more information call 237-3921 or 664-4100. ***(PR)***

San Antonio ES to start classes on Sept. 4

San Antonio Elementary School will begin classes on Sept. 4, 2012. The school gate will open at 7:15am. Parents and guardians will meet with their children's classroom teacher during the open house. Open house will be on Sept. 4, K-2nd grade, 5-6pm; Sept. 5, 3rd and 4th grade, 5-6pm; and Sept. 6, 5th and 6th grade, 5-6pm. ***(PR)***

KagES grade 5 and 6 students orientation on Aug. 27

Kagman Elementary School will have a special orientation for 5th and 6th grade students on Monday, Aug. 27, from 3pm to 4pm at the Kagman Elementary School cafeteria.

The agenda will address double session class schedules and attendance is required. For more information, call 237-3965 or 237-3074. ***(PR)***

SSHS sets important dates for start of school year

Saipan Southern High School will hold its first day of classes for school year 2012-2013 on Sep. 4, 2012.

Students must be on campus by 8am. Classes starts at 8:30am and dismissal is at 3pm. All new students enrolling at SSHS for school year 2012-2013 must complete and submit a registration form.

Registration forms are available in the registrar's office or main office. All returning students who attended SSHS last year must return all textbooks and settle all obligations with the school, before you can pick up your class reschedule.

Schedules are to be picked up at the Counseling office are as follows:

- 12th grade: Aug. 22, 2012 9am-4pm
- 11th grade: Aug. 23 9am-4pm
- 10th grade Aug. 24 9am-4pm

All transfer and new students enrolling at SSHS SY2012-2013 in grades 10,11, and 12 are required to attend an orientation on Aug. 28 from 1pm to 3pm with their parents or legal guardians.

No students will be allowed to attend the orientation without parents or legal guardians in attendance. Incoming freshman students orientation will be held on two different session to accommodate parents or legal guardians work schedules. Both sessions are on Aug. 28 from 9am to 11am and 1pm to 3pm.

For more information, call SSHS principal Jesse Tudela at 237-3702 or the main office at 664-4000/ 237-3710. ***(PR)***

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SINGLE	Silver Plan	$ 65.00	$ 91.00
	Silver Plus Plan	$ 92.00	$ 118.00
COUPLE	Silver Plan	$ 130.00	$ 182.00
	Silver Plus Plan	$ 184.00	$ 236.00
FAMILY	Silver Plan	$ 208.00	$ 265.00
	Silver Plus Plan	$ 297.00	$ 354.00

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STAYWELL Contact Information

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FlameTree Terrace Office Building, Lower Capitol Hill

National Impaired Driving Enforcement Crackdown
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DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER
THEY'LL SEE YOU BEFORE YOU SEE THEM.
This Labor Day weekend, drive sober or get pulled over
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UOG nursing grads achieve 100% first-time pass rate

University of Guam nursing graduates and the nursing program celebrate the 100 percent first-time pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) for 23 nursing graduates who earned their Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2010. All graduates passed the exam the first time they took the test. These results surpass the national average of 89 percent for 2010 nursing graduates across the nation.

"I congratulate each of our 2010 graduates for their hard work and dedication to their nursing education," said Kathryn Wood, UOG School of Nursing acting director. "Guam's nursing professionals and the community as a whole can share in the celebration of this moment. Our nursing students receive their clinical experiences at GMH and in clinics around the island under the guidance of experienced registered nurses so the success of our students is truly a community success. We also acknowledge the contribution made by Take Care each year for nursing education and NCLEX-RN prep courses."

School of Nursing graduates must pass the NCLEX-RN to become licensed to practice nursing. Success on NCLEX-RN is a benchmark that indicates that the candidates have the competencies to safely provide care.

The last time the UOG Nursing graduates achieved a 100 percent first-time pass rate was in 2003. ***(UOG)***

Making teer, wiisch gherguer on Saipan this Saturday

The Saipan Chamorro-Carolinian Cultural Center is offering free lessons on making teer (lava lava) and wiisch ghergher (grated banana) at the Center on Capital Hill (1213 Capitol Hill Road), next to the CNMI Board of Parole Office and across from the Workforce Investment Agency (WIA). The lessons will start at 9:30am and will end around noon.

The above activities are sponsored by the Inetnon Amot yan Kutturan Natibu/ Mwiischil Safey me Kkoor Aramasal Faluw (Association of Native Medicine and Culture), in partnership with the Indigenous Affairs Office, and funded in part by the Administration for Native Americans. For more information, call 322-0278. ***(PR)***

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DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
P.O. Box 501000 C.K.
Saipan, MP 96950

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Division of Youth Services under the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs is pleased to announce that the 2013 Title XX Social Services Block Grant State Plan is available for public review and comments. This grant is funded under the Administration for Children and Families/Office of Community Services under the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

The DCCA Division of Youth Services is the mandated state agency to provide social service programs for children, youth and families throughout the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Social Services Block Grant State Plan summarizes DYS' continuous efforts in promoting public education, prevention, intervention and development programs for the above population.

The Social Services Block Grant State Plan will be available for review at the Division of Youth Services Office of the Director and the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs in Capitol Hill during regular business hours beginning Monday, August 27, 2012.

For additional inquiries or assistance, please contact Vivian T. Sablan at Tel. 664-2559 or via email at vtsablan@gmail.com

/s/ Melvin L.O. Faisao
DCCA Secretary

Former remittance company owner pleads guilty

» Woman pleads guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud

Limtiaco

Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, United States Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, announced that Ana Maria Villegas, age 45, of the Philippines, pled guilty last Monday in United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands before Chief District Court Judge Ramona V. Manglona to one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud.

Pursuant to a written plea agreement, Villegas admitted that from on or about November 2004 to on or about Jan. 17, 2007, she conspired with at least one other person to commit the crime of wire fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C § 1343.

Sentencing was scheduled by Manglona for Jan. 4, 2013 at 9am in U.S. District Court on Saipan. Villegas faces a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison. As part of the plea agreement, Villegas has agreed to pay restitution to Philippine National Bank in excess of $109,000.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the prosecution was handled by AUSA Rami Badawy. ***(PR)***

Coast Guard medevacs woman near Maui

HONOLULU—The Coast Guard medically evacuated a snorkeler in respiratory distress near Maui Friday.

Coast Guard Station Maui received a call at approximately 10am, reporting that a 65-year-old woman aboard the 64-foot charter vessel *Ocean Liberty* was having trouble breathing. The vessel was at Molokini Crater, near Maui. A Coast Guard flight surgeon was briefed on the woman's condition and recommended immediate evacuation.

A 45-foot response boat crew from Station Maui was deployed to evacuate the woman and arrived on scene at approximately 10:20am. The response boat crew safely transported the woman to emergency medical specialists waiting at the Kihei Boat Ramp. The patient's condition is unknown.

The Coast Guard routinely provides emergent transport of patients throughout the Hawaiian Islands. The Coast Guard's new 45-foot Response Boat-Medium boasts an improved design, new ergonomics and enhanced safety features, making boat crews more effective in performing their missions. The RB-M is part of the Coast Guard's plan to standardize and revitalize its shore-based boat fleet. These upgrades ensure the Coast Guard remains America's maritime first responder. For more information on the future of Coast Guard vessels and aircraft visit (Acquisition Directorate).

For more information contact the Coast Guard's 14th District Public Affairs Office at (808) 535-3230. ***(PR)***

Deadline to register for CPA prep courses Sept. 7

The deadline to register for BA693A-70-Auditing, Assurance, and Business Environment and Concepts (AABEC) a preparation course for the Certified Public Accountant Exam is Sept. 7 at 5pm.

The course, offered by the UOG School of Business and Public Administration and Becker Professional Education, will run from Sept. 22 to Dec. 8, 2012. Taught by professor Zeny Nace, CPA, the course runs Saturdays from 8:30am to 12:30pm. For more information, visit the UOG Professional & International Programs website at www.uog.edu or call 735-2600/1. ***(UOG)***

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GILL BLAS CONDOMINIUM

One Year Contract: Regular Price from ~~$650.00~~ NOW $500.00
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AMENITIES:
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- Common waste container
- Free moving-service
- On-duty security guard at night
- Parking space
- Back-up generator
- Furnished unit w/ balcony
- Laundry facility
- On-site maintenance
- Swimming pool

SEDA BLANCA APARTMENT

One Year Contract: 1-Bedroom Regular Price ~~$500.00~~ NOW $400.00
Monthly Basis: Studio Type - $350.00 • 1 Bedroom - $450.00
Power and Water EXCLUDED
LOCATION: Lower Miha, GARAPAN, nearby 747 Dining & Bar
AMENITIES:
- 24-hr water supply
- Common waste container
- Free moving-service
- On-site maintenance
- Back-up generator
- Furnished unit w/ balcony
- Laundry facility
- Parking space

PASTEL INN APARTMENT

One Year Contract: Studio – Regular Price ~~$350.00~~ NOW $250.00
2 Bedroom Regular Price ~~$550.00~~ NOW $400.00
Monthly Basis: Studio Type - $270.00 • 2 Bedroom - $420.00
LOCATION: SAN JOSE, right next to Roshi's Store (along Beach Rd)
AMENITIES:
- 24-hr water supply
- Common waste container
- Free moving-service
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For further details: You can visit ATOM's CO., LTD. office, located in Garapan, Saipan. Our office hour is 9:00 am to 6:00 pm on weekdays and 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm on weekends. You can also contact us thru phone at 233-8880 or send us an e-mail at atoms@pticom.com

Finalized plans for 2012 Economic Census underway

The Executive Branch is happy to welcome the arrival of U.S. Census Bureau officials Charles A. Funk, assistant division chief for Survey Programs and Lee R. Wentela, chief, Economic Census Branch, as they are currently in the CNMI to finalize plans for the 2012 Economic Census.

Funk

Wentela

The Central Statistics Division (CSD) of the CNMI Department of Commerce is helping with the planning of data collection.

While here, Wentela and Funk, will meet with the Department of Commerce and other government representatives, Chamber of Commerce, Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, news media, and other business organizations, to do a follow-up on their early 2011 visit, and to promote the 2012 Economic Census that should be underway by October.

Echoing Wentela, Justin Andrews of the CNMI CSD Office stated, "As always, we encourage participation and cooperation of all surveyees so as to improve the quality of the economic census."

The economic census provides a comprehensive measure of economic activity by industry, island, and village, and is conducted every five years; the last survey was conducted in 2007.

Businesses in the CNMI will receive economic census forms by mail between October and December of this year. Completed forms are due on Feb. 12, 2013. Title XIII of the United States Code requires businesses to respond to this census. The same law provides for the confidentiality of all responses, and states the data can be used for statistical purposes only.

"We would like to thank all businesses in advance for their cooperation in completing the 2012 Economic Census. Results of this census will help businesses and policymakers assess the status of the CNMI economy and identify opportunities for expansion," Wentela said.

The Economic Census report contains aggregate and industry level tables on number of establishments, sales, payroll, number of employees, size of firm, capital expenditures, as well as statistics on legal form of organization, and citizenship and gender of the owners. It also includes sales by type of business and class of customer.

Examples of data users include:

■ Small and large businesses use census statistics to develop business plans, identify business opportunities, define markets, assess competition, attract investment, manage sales, and evaluate efficiency.

■ Industry professionals, economic analysts and business reporters use census statistics to assess industry growth and change, prepare economic forecasts, define legislative priorities, and produce educational materials.

■ Federal and local agencies use census statistics to design economic development and regulatory programs, evaluate program effects, conduct trade negotiations, and prepare revenue and spending plans. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis uses the statistics to develop estimates of Gross Domestic Product.

Final census results for the CNMI are expected to be released in March of 2014.

Results of the 2007 Economic Census for CNMI are available at: www.census.gov/econ/islandareas

For more information, contact Justin H. Andrew, Department of Commerce, Central Statistics Division at 664-3023 or 3045. ***(PR)***

Legal Notice

If You Bought a TV, Monitor or Notebook Computer That Contained an LCD Flat Panel Screen

File a Claim Now to Get Money from Settlements Totaling Almost $1.1 Billion.

This is the second notice in this case. Settlements have now been reached with AU Optronics, LG Display and Toshiba ("New Settlements"). The Court previously approved Settlements with seven other Defendants.

Members of the Statewide Damages Classes can file a claim now to get a payment from all Settlements (*see* below).

What are the lawsuits about?

The lawsuits claim that the Defendants conspired to fix, raise, maintain or stabilize prices of thin film transistor liquid crystal display ("TFT-LCD" or "LCD") Flat Panels, resulting in overcharges to consumers who bought TVs, monitors or notebook computers containing Flat Panels. The Defendants deny Plaintiffs' allegations or that consumers paid any overcharge. The Court has not decided who is right.

Who is included in the lawsuits?

This case has recovered money for consumers in 24 states and the District of Columbia and governmental entities in eight states, and nationwide injunctive relief to stop the Defendants' alleged behavior.

Statewide Damages Classes: Generally, include any person or business that indirectly purchased a TFT-LCD Flat Panel, which had been incorporated in a TV, monitor or notebook computer, from any of the Defendants or Quanta Display Inc., from January 1, 1999 to December 31, 2006, for their own use and not for resale, while residing in the 24 states or the District of Columbia. "Indirectly" means that you purchased the product containing the LCD Flat Panel from someone other than the manufacturer of the LCD Flat Panel.

The purchase must have been made in the same state where the person or business resided. Businesses in Rhode Island and Missouri and indirect purchasers who also had direct purchases (previously not included) may now participate in all 10 Settlements.

The 24 states are: AZ, AR, CA, FL, HI, IA, KS, ME, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NV, NM, NY, NC, ND, RI, SD, TN, VT, WV and WI. See specific class definitions at www.LCDclass.com.

Nationwide Class: Includes any person or business that indirectly purchased in the United States, a TFT-LCD Flat Panel, which had been incorporated in a TV, monitor or notebook computer, from any of the Defendants or Quanta Display Inc., between January 1, 1999 and February 13, 2012, for their own use and not for resale, and resided in the United States on February 13, 2012.

Attorneys General Actions: The Attorneys General of AR, CA, FL, MI, MO, NY, WV and WI are participating in these Settlements to resolve related claims arising from the same allegations as asserted in the class actions: (1) on behalf of state residents under state law and the doctrine of *parens patriae*, which allows a state to bring a lawsuit on behalf of its citizens, and/or for governmental entities; and (2) for civil penalties.

What do the Settlements provide?

Three New Settlements totaling $543,500,000 are being presented to the Court for approval. In addition, AU Optronics and LG Display are making payments to resolve claims for civil penalties brought by the Attorneys General. To the extent AU Optronics, LG Display and Toshiba continue to manufacture LCD Flat Panels, they have agreed not to engage in conduct that is at issue in these lawsuits and/or will establish (or maintain) a program to educate their employees about complying with the law. The combined Settlement Fund (totaling $1,082,055,647) will be used to pay individual and business consumers in the 24 states and DC. A portion of the Settlement Fund will be distributed to governmental entities in the eight states with Attorneys General Actions.

Payments will be based on the number of valid claims filed as well as on the number/type of LCD Flat Panel products you purchased. It is expected that a minimum payment of $25 will be made to all Class Members who submit a valid claim. It is possible that any money remaining after claims are paid will be distributed to charities, governmental entities or other beneficiaries approved by the Court. More details are provided in the Settlement Agreements and other documents available at www.LCDclass.com, or by calling the toll-free number below.

The cost to administer the Settlements, attorneys' fees, costs and expenses, and awards to the Class Representatives will come out of the Settlement Fund. Plaintiffs' counsel will request attorneys' fees not to exceed one-third of the Settlement Fund, plus reimbursement of costs and expenses.

How can I get a payment?

You must submit a Claim Form to get a payment. You can submit a claim online or by mail. The deadline to submit a claim is **December 6, 2012**. Claim Forms are available at the website or by calling 1-855-225-1886.

What are my rights?

The Court will hold a hearing on **November 29, 2012** to consider whether to approve the New Settlements. If you stay in the Classes, you may object to the New Settlements, plan of distribution, attorneys' fees and costs, and awards to Class Representatives by **October 9, 2012**. You or your own lawyer may appear and speak at the hearing at your own expense.

With the exception noted below, the first notice gave you an opportunity to exclude yourself. If you did not exclude yourself, you have given up your right to sue the Defendants on your own for the claims in this case. Only individuals and businesses that indirectly purchased an LCD Flat Panel: (1) while residing in Arkansas; (2) while residing in Missouri or Rhode Island that was not primarily for household or personal use; or (3) that had a direct purchase in addition to an indirect purchase, have until **October 9, 2012** to exclude themselves from the litigation involving AU Optronics, LG Display and Toshiba. If you reside outside of the 24 states and the District of Columbia you keep any right you may have to sue the Defendants for monetary relief.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
NMHC RFP 2012-010
FROM
NMHC'S REGISTERED & APPROVED CONTRACTORS

ASSESSMENT AND REHABILITATION/CONSTRUCTION OF EIGHT (8) ABANDONED/FORECLOSED PROPERTIES

CLOSING DATE: THURSDAY, August 30, 2012 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

PLACE: Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors through its Chairwoman of the Board, are soliciting competitive sealed proposals from NMHC's Registered and Approved Contractors in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Copies of the proposal package may be obtained at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday through Friday except CNMI holidays.

The procedures for this procurement shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this procurement.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) provided to the Commonwealth. Aside from other governing regulations specified in the Scope of Work, proposers are advised this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts as well as Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968. Proposers are further notified NMHC will affirmatively ensure that in any contracts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority and women-owned business enterprises (MBE/WBE) are afforded equal opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, gender, age, disability or national origin.

/s/Marcie M. Tomokane
Chairwoman of the Board

/s/Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW12-IFB-012

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids proposal for the ***Construction of Office Space for the Commonwealth Development Authority***, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after August 24, 2012 at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capital Hill, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Fifty Dollars ($150.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. ***Preference is available to US Citizens as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by PublicLaw 15-118, and must be submitted with the BID of preference is claimed.***

There will be a ***Pre-bid Conference*** for this project on September 04, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. local time at the Project Site, former Coastal Resources Management Office, San Jose, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on September 10, 2012 to **Mr. Vicente C. Cabrera, Acting Director, Technical Services Division**, DPW Bldg. #1353 Mednilla Avenue, or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW12-IFB-012"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time September 13, 2012. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time September 13, 2012, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than September 13, 2012, and must be received no later than September 20, 2012. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 9:30 a.m. local time, September 24, 2012, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 9:30 a.m. local time, on September 14, 2012.

Bid Security shall be required for all competitive sealed bidding construction contracts where the price is estimated by the P & S Director to exceed $25,000.00 or when the P& S Director determines it is in the interest of the Commonwealth. Bid security shall be on bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other forms acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. **Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:**

a) **A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond In the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Island, and**

b) **Under penalty of perjury, a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.**

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Government Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payments or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred and Twenty (120) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred and Fifty Dollars **(US $150.00)** per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ANTHONY A. CAMACHO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director Procurement and Supply

Business

Costs of big wildfire season hurting some states

MANTON, Calif. (AP)—A huge wildfire in California is just the latest destructive blaze to stretch resources across the West during a fire season that has been one of the worst in years.

The fires have left some states with thin budgets to scramble to get people, planes, bulldozers and other tools on fire lines to beat back the flames.

And that's with about a third of the annual wildfire season remaining.

According to the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho, the nation as of Wednesday had seen 42,927 wildfires this year, which burned just over 7 million acres.

While the number of fires is down from the 10-year average of 54,209 as of Aug. 22, the acreage was well above the average of 5.4 million acres, said Don Smurthwaite, a NIFC spokesman.

"The fires are bigger," Smurthwaite said.

In Colorado Springs, Colo., this summer, about 350 homes were burned in the most destructive wildfire in state history. Another fire in northern Colorado just before it scorched 257 homes.

The costs have mounted, not just in the damage to houses and other buildings.

In Utah, for example, officials have spent $50 million as of mid-August to fight more than 1,000 wildfires, far surpassing the $3 million a year the Legislature budgeted for fighting wildfires.

The state's share is estimated at $16 million, said Roger Lewis of the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands. He said lawmakers will need to figure out how to come up with $13 million.

That's the largest-ever supplemental appropriation request needed for firefighting in the state, agency spokesman Jason Curry said. He said, "It's obviously been a big year."

Washington state fire officials project that they will spend about $19.8 million on emergency fire suppression activities in the current fiscal year that ends next June.

That is expected to far surpass the $11.2 million the agency was allotted for such work, meaning the Department of Natural Resources will have to ask the Legislature for supplemental funds.

Not all Western states are seeing their budgets busted because of fires.

In Oregon, the state estimated it had spent $3.4 million through last Saturday to fight wildfires, with more than two months of the season left. Last year, it spent $6.6 million.

In Montana, forest managers told Gov. Brian Schweitzer that long-term forecasts call for fire conditions through the end of September, which is longer than normal.

The Northern Rockies Coordination Center put the total cost of fighting large wildfires in Montana, including costs to federal and state agencies, at $64 million so far this season. The state's share is about $25 million to fight fires that have burned about 1,100 square miles.

Schweitzer said the state has already burned through cash reserves set aside for such natural disasters, but that plenty of money is available from surplus general funds.

Middle class share of America's income shrinking

WASHINGTON (AP)—The middle class is receiving less of America's total income, declining to its smallest share in decades as median wages stagnate in the economic doldrums and wealth concentrates at the top.

A study released Wednesday by the Pew Research Center highlights diminished hopes, too, for the roughly 50 percent of adults defined as middle class, with household incomes ranging from $39,000 to $118,000. The report describes this mid-tier group as suffering its "worst decade in modern history," having fallen backward in income for the first time since the end of World War II.

Three years after the recession technically ended, middle class Americans are still feeling the economic pinch, with most saying they have been forced to reduce spending in the past year. And fewer now believe that hard work will allow them to get ahead in life. Families are now more likely to say their children's economic future will be the same or worse than their own.

In all, 85 percent of middle class Americans say it is more difficult now than a decade ago to maintain their standard of living. Some 62 percent say a lot of the blame lies with Congress. A slight majority say a lot lies with banks and other financial institutions. Just 8 percent blame the middle class itself.

"The job market is changing, our living standards are falling in the middle, and middle-income parents are now afraid that their children will be worse off than they are," says Timothy Smeeding, a University of Wisconsin-Madison economics professor who specializes in income inequality.

He said that many middle-income families have taken a big hit in the past decade as health care costs increase, mid-wage jobs disappear due to automation and outsourcing and college tuition mounts for those seeking to build credentials to get better work. In the meantime, more-affluent families have fared better in net worth because they are less dependent than lower-income groups on home property values, which remain shriveled after the housing bust. Wealthier Americans are more likely to be invested in the stock market, which as a whole has been quicker to recover from the downturn.

"These are the disaffected middle class who work hard and play by the rules of society, but increasingly see their situation declining by forces beyond their control," Smeeding said in an interview. "No matter who is president, the climb back up for the middle class and the recovery will be slow and often painful."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

First lady announces new hiring push for vets

NAVAL STATION MAYPORT, Fla. (AP)—First lady Michelle Obama chose a naval station in the electoral battleground of Florida to announce Wednesday that 2,000 businesses around the country have hired or trained more than 125,000 military veterans and spouses in the past year, exceeding a White House goal of 100,000 by the end of next year. Mrs. Obama also told a crowd of Navy personnel and their spouses at this Jacksonville base that the same companies have committed to hire or train an additional 250,000 veterans and military spouses by 2014. That includes hiring or training 50,000 military spouses within three years—and helping them keep those jobs as families move from one duty station to another.

USDA, McDonald's suspend slaughterhouse buys

FRESNO, Calif. (AP)—The federal government and McDonald's Corp. suspended purchases of meat Wednesday from a California slaughterhouse under investigation for animal cruelty and possible health issues. The fast-food chain joined the U.S. Department of Agriculture in severing ties with Central Valley Meat Co. The suspensions occurred after an animal welfare group's covert video showed cows that appeared to be sick or lame being beaten, kicked, shot and shocked in an attempt to get them to walk to slaughter. "There are behaviors in the video which appear to be unacceptable and would not adhere to the standards we demand of our suppliers," McDonald's said in release.

Nation

Romney, Ryan pulled into abortion debate

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—Republicans Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan found themselves dragged into a debate Wednesday over hot-button social issues and answering for differences between their personal positions on abortion, just days before a national convention aimed at showing a unified Republican party. The discussion lingered while President Barack Obama and Romney tangled from afar over issues like education and the deficit.

The GOP ticket dealt with a renewed focus on abortion in the wake of comments about "legitimate rape" from Missouri Senate candidate Todd Akin, remarks that have caused an uproar and generated demands from Romney and party leaders for the congressman to quit the race.

The questions over abortion overshadowed events by Romney and Ryan in the battleground states of Iowa, North Carolina and Virginia—three states which Obama carried in 2008—ahead of next week's Republican convention in Tampa, Fla. Obama rallied supporters in Nevada, the state with the nation's highest unemployment rate of 12 percent, before heading to New York for a basketball-themed fundraiser.

Since selecting Ryan as his running mate, Romney has faced questions about how his policy positions differ from those espoused by Ryan, the architect of a controversial budget blueprint that would dramatically alter Medicare. On abortion, Romney does not oppose abortion in cases of rape and incest or if it will save the mother's life, while Ryan does oppose abortion in cases of rape and incest.

Ryan, in an interview with a Pennsylvania TV station, emphasized Romney's role at the top of the ticket, saying he was proud of his record on the social issue. "I stand by my pro-life record in Congress. It's something I'm proud of. But Mitt Romney is the top of the ticket and Mitt Romney will be president and he will set the policy of the Romney administration," he said.

Ryan defended a bill he cosponsored in the House to permanently ban federal funding for abortion except in cases of incest and "forcible" rape. That language, which was eventually changed, would have narrowed the exception for rape victims. Akin and 225 other members of the House, including 11 Democrats, also cosponsored the bill.

Akin, who is challenging Democratic Sen. Claire McCaskill in a race that could determine control of the Senate, was asked in an interview that aired Sunday if abortion should be legal in cases of rape. Akin said: "If it's a legitimate rape, the female body has ways to try to shut that whole thing down."

Akin cares little about pressure from GOP leaders

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Until this week, Rep. Todd Akin was virtually unknown beyond his suburban district, associated more with his deep religious convictions than any legislative achievements.

Long before his comments about women's bodies and "legitimate rape" made him a potential flashpoint in the fall campaign, Akin was a favorite among home-schooling organizations and conservative church groups in the area where his relatives have lived for generations. He seldom authored bills or sought wider recognition.

Now Akin could help shape the national political debate in a Senate race that leaders of his own party figure he can't win, and they're worried he'll drag down other Republicans with him. But if Akin's 12 years in Congress have proven anything, it's that pressure from the party establishment carries little weight with him.

"He's never been popular among Republicans, and Todd Akin doesn't care," Saint Louis University political science professor Ken Warren said. "The best you can say for Todd is that he's a very principled guy. He believes what he believes, and he's not going to compromise those principles just to be in the mainstream."

The 65-year-old, six-term congressman ascended in Missouri politics largely on his own. He grew up on a farm outside St. Louis, earned an engineering degree and went to work at now-bankrupt Laclede Steel Co., which his great-grandfather started. He and his wife, Lulli, settled on land in St. Louis County owned by Akin's father. Each Independence Day he would dress in colonial attire as the family hosted a party for the neighborhood.

The Akins home-schooled their four sons (three of whom graduated from the Naval Academy and became Marine Corps officers) and two daughters. Lulli Akin's involvement in home-schooling groups helped create the base of support that has long sustained her husband's political career.

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e-mail "joshuaberger711@hotmail.com"

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS

CIVIL CASE NO. 12-0186

LAW OFFICES OF S. JOSHUA BERGER,
Plaintiff,
vs.

RICKY PADDAYUMAN CUSTODIO,
Defendant.

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION
(For THEFT)

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file with the Superior Court any Answer you wish to make to the Complaint in this matter, a copy of which may be obtained at the law office below or the Superior Court, within **twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication** of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your Answer to the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger whose address is Second Floor , D'Torres Building, Garapan, P.O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your Answer.

Your Answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Sususpe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

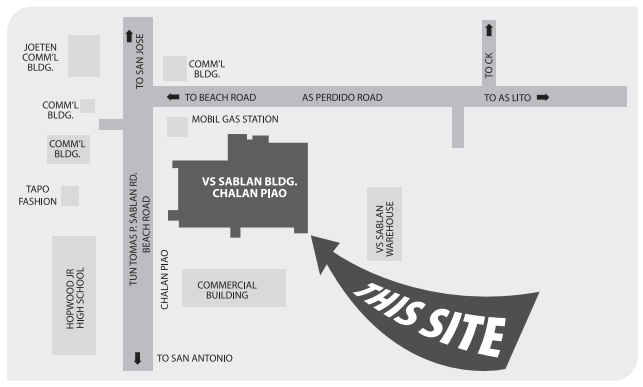
If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By Order of the above Court:

DATED August 23, 2012

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

Sablan Enterprises, Inc
***dba* SABLAN REALTY**



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Asia

Japan's PM meets protesters, won't stop reactors

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's prime minister met for the first time with leaders of weekly anti-nuclear protests Wednesday but rejected their demand that two recently restarted nuclear plants should be shut again.

Tens of thousands of people have been gathering every Friday night outside Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda's office compound to protest against nuclear power because of safety concerns set off by last year's Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear crisis.

The 11 protest leaders were allowed into the complex for the first time since they started chanting anti-nuclear slogans outside the tightly guarded building in April.

"When the majority of the general public opposed the restart, you forced it by trampling down on us. It was ridiculous and outrageous," protester Misao Redwolf told Noda as she sat across from him during the 30-minute meeting. "We will continue our protests as long as you keep ignoring our voices."

The protesters said meeting the prime minister was not their goal and they would continue to gather until their demands are met.

Noda initially called the demonstrations outside his office complex "big noise," triggering criticism. He promised the protesters on Wednesday that he would listen to people's views and reflect them in policy decisions.

But Noda did not accept their demands that his government shut down two reactors that were restarted in July and keep the rest of the country's 48 reactors shuttered.

He has repeatedly insisted that nuclear plants need to be restarted to avoid power shortages that would impact Japan's economy.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Myanmar opposition leader Suu Kyi meets president

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—An official says Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi has held talks with the country's president for the second time in less than two weeks. The director of the president's office, Col. Zaw Htay, says Suu Kyi and President Thein Sein met Wednesday evening in the capital, Naypyitaw. He declined to provide details of the talks. Suu Kyi and Thein Sein are key players in Myanmar's political transformation after a half-century of military rule. They have met on three previous occasions, most recently on Aug. 12. No details of that meeting were released.

Bodies of 2 pilots recovered in PH crash

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine officials say divers have recovered the bodies of two pilots from a plane that crashed in the sea over the weekend and killed the country's popular interior secretary, ending a massive search. Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin says the Filipino pilot, Capt. Jessup Bahinting, was retrieved from the wreckage of the four-seat Piper Seneca plane on the sea floor off central Masbate province Wednesday. His Nepalese co-pilot, Kshitiz Chand, was found floating Thursday. Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo's body was retrieved Tuesday in a U.S. Navy-backed search supervised by President Benigno Aquino III. Robredo's police aide managed to swim out of the doomed plane and survived. With a stalled engine, the plane crashed at sea while attempting to land Saturday at the Masbate airport. The wreckage was brought ashore on Thursday.

HK welcomes home sailors arrested in island row

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong gave a hero's welcome home Wednesday to activists who landed on disputed islands and whose video of their scuffles with Japanese police will likely aggravate nationalist tensions further. The seven activists were part of a 14-person group that managed to evade the Japanese Coast Guard in a rusty fishing boat to reach the islands a week ago. The group included two reporters from Phoenix TV, which broadcast video for the first time of the activists' desperate confrontation with Japanese officers as they landed on the barren islands. Known as Senkaku in Japan and Diaoyu in China, the islands are surrounded by rich fishing grounds and may also be near underwater natural gas deposits. They're controlled by Japan but also claimed by China and Taiwan.

World

Russia: West 'instigating' Syrian opposition

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia accused Western powers Wednesday of "openly instigating" Syrian opposition groups to take up arms in their fight to unseat President Bashar Assad.

Moscow has been Syria's key protector throughout the 17-month uprising that has evolved into a full-blown civil war, shielding Assad's regime from international sanctions and providing it with weapons despite an international outcry.

Russia's Foreign Ministry said the West "has done nothing" to urge the Syrian opposition to start a dialogue with the government.

"Instead, they are engaged in openly instigating it to continue their armed struggle," it said in a statement.

It claimed that the Western approach to the Syrian civil is "hypocritical" and is not helping to resolve the conflict that has killed an estimated 19,000 people.

Russia and China, both veto-wielding U.N. Security Council members, have blocked proposals to call on Assad to step down.

Russia has said that its opposition to sanctions against Syria is driven not by support for Assad himself, but by a respect for international law that forbids foreign military intervention in internal conflicts without U.N. Security Council authorization.

Russia has called for talks between the Syrian regime and its foes. It staunchly opposes any plans that would demand Assad's ouster, saying that only the Syrian people can decide the country's fate.

Israeli minister wants Palestinian leader's ouster

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel's foreign minister urged the international community to help oust Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas whose policies he called "an obstacle to peace" in a letter released Wednesday.

Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman wrote to the Quartet of Mideast mediators—the U.S., the U.N., the EU and Russia—this week calling for new elections in the Palestinian Authority in order to replace Abbas, accusing the Palestinian Authority of being "a despotic government riddled with corruption."

"Despite Mr. Abbas' delays, general elections in the Palestinian Authority should be held and a new, legitimate, hopefully realistic leadership should be elected" he wrote. "Only such a leadership can bring progress with Israel. We must maximize the holding of new elections in the PA alongside the tremendous changes in the Arab world, in order to bring a serious change between Israel and the Palestinians."

Ailing Egypt seeks $4.8 billion IMF loan

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt formally asked the International Monetary Fund for a $4.8 billion loan on Wednesday, seeking a desperately needed rescue package for its faltering economy but raising the possibility of painful restructuring in a country still reeling since its revolution more than 18 months ago.

The loan deal, which Egypt says it will reach by the end of the year, presents a major test to the Muslim Brotherhood-rooted president, Mohammed Morsi, the country's first ever freely elected leader, brought to power after the fall of Hosni Mubarak.

The IMF has avoided making specific conditions for a loan but it seeks a cohesive government plan for restarting economic growth and reducing a deficit that has grown to $23.6 billion, some 8.7 percent of gross domestic product.

A key part of that will likely be reducing subsidies that suck up a third of the government budget every year. Touching those subsidies, however, could bring social upheaval, since they keep commodities like fuel and bread cheap for a population of around 82 million, some 40 percent of whom live near or below the poverty line.

Greg T. Magofna
P. O. Box 503439 CK
Saipan, MP 96950
(670) 323-1177

Pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter Of The Adoption Of: Justin Joab Che Magofna Minor Child	**FCD-AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0372**
By: Greg T. Magofna Petitioner.	**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing September 17, 2012 at 1:30pm in Courtroom 205A, before the Honorable Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 8th day of August, 2012.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/Deputy Clerk of Court

JOE HILL, Esq.,
HILL LAW OFFICES
P.O. Box 500917, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743
Fax: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CORAZON P. YUSON-JAMERO Petitioner, **versus TEODORO B. JAMERO,** Respondent.	**FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0384** **SUMMONS**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of court, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewee, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 15th day of August, 2012.

/s/Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

Northern Mariana Islands
RETIREMENT FUND
"Investing For The Future Financial Security Of Our Members"
1980

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING OFFICER SERVICES
(RFP NO. RF12-007)

OPENING DATE: **August 23, 2012** CLOSING DATE: **September 13, 2012**

The Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund ("Fund"), the CNMI government employees' defined benefit plan, is soliciting proposals from qualified vendors to provide administrative hearing officer services with respect to consolidated appeals taken by members relating to adverse decisions of the Administrator relating to overtime/comp-time credits. The RFP packet contains a listing of affected members for the purposes of conflict checking by vendors. The Fund will not waive any conflict and requests that only non-conflicted vendors respond to this RFP.

To receive the RFP packet, please fax, e-mail, or mail your request to:
Esther Ada, Acting Administrator
Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund
PO Box 501247
Saipan, MP 96950
Fax: (670) 664-8080
E-mail: nmirf.rfp@nmiretirement.com

The Acting Administrator reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in a proposal if doing so is in the best interests of the Fund. All proposals shall become the property of the NMI Retirement Fund.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
2012-CDA-09-RFP

CLOSING DATE: Monday, September 24, 2012 • TIME: 10:00 a.m.

"INSURANCE FOR CDA'S PROPERTIES"

Copies of the Scope of Work may be obtained at the Commonwealth Development Authority office, 1st Floor Wakin's Bldg. in Gualo Rai, Saipan during regular working hours or by facsimile request to 235-7147.

Preference is available to U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents as per PL15-95 and as further amended by PL15-118 and the application must be submitted with the BID if preference is claimed.

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement and Supply

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
2012-CDA-08-ITB

CLOSING DATE: Monday, September 24, 2012 • TIME: 10:00 a.m.

"JANITORIAL & MAINTENANCE FOR CDA BUILDING IN SAN JOSE"

Copies of the Scope of Work may be obtained at the Commonwealth Development Authority office, 1st Floor Wakin's Bldg. in Gualo Rai, Saipan during regular working hours or by facsimile request to 235-7147.

Preference is available to U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents as per PL15-95 and as further amended by PL15-118 and the application must be submitted with the BID if preference is claimed.

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement and Supply

Off The Wall

Brazilian worker survives iron bar piercing skull

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—A 24-year-old construction worker survived after a 6-foot metal bar fell from above and pierced his head, doctors said Friday.

Luiz Alexandre Essinger, chief of staff at Rio de Janeiro's Miguel Couto Hospital, said doctors successfully withdrew the iron bar from Eduardo Leite's skull during a five-hour surgery.

"He was taken to the operating room, his skull was opened, they examined the brain and the surgeon decided to pull the metal bar out from the front in the same direction it entered the brain." Essinger said.

He said Leite was conscious when he arrived at the hospital and told him what had happened.

He said Leite was lucid and showed no negative consequences after the operation.

"Today, he continues well, with few complaints for a five-hour-long surgery," Essinger said. "He says he feels little pain."

The bar fell from the fifth floor of a building under construction, went through Leite's hard hat, entered the back of his skull and exited between his eyes, Essinger said, adding: "It really was a miracle" that Leite survived.

AP

This tomography scan released Thursday, Aug. 16, 2012 by the Miguel Couto hospital, shows the skull of 24-year-old construction worker Eduardo Leite pierced by a metal bar in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The accident and surgery took place on Wednesday.

"They told me he was lying down (in the ambulance) with the bar pointing upward," said Leite's wife, Lilian Regina da Silva Costa. "He was holding it and his face covered in blood. His look was as if nothing had happened. When he arrived he told the doctors he wasn't feeling anything, no pain, nothing. It's unbelievable."

Ruy Monteiro, the hospital's head of neurosurgery, told the Globo TV network that Leite escaped by just a few centimeters from losing one eye and becoming paralyzed on the left side of his body.

He said the bar entered a "non-eloquent" area of the brain, an area that doesn't have a specific, major known function.

Leite is expected to remain hospitalized for at least two weeks.

Air France: Out of gas? Ask passengers to pitch in

PARIS (AP)—An emergency layover in Syria's capital was bad enough. Then passengers on Air France Flight 562 were asked to open their wallets to check if they had enough cash to pay for more fuel.

The plane, heading from Paris to Lebanon's capital, diverted amid tensions near the Beirut airport on Wednesday. Low on fuel, it instead landed in Damascus, the capital of neighboring Syria, where a civil war is raging.

An Air France spokesman explained Friday that the crew inquired about passenger cash only as a "precautionary measure" because of the "very unusual circumstances." Sanctions against Syria complicated payment for extra fuel.

He said Air France found a way to pay for the fill-up without tapping customer pockets, and apologized for the inconvenience. He wouldn't say how the airline paid, or how much.

One woman aboard said the passengers had rounded up 17,000 euros.

"The pilot asked the passengers in first class to get their cash together. Everyone started to collect money, and they managed to collect 17,000, but the pilot in the end didn't take anything. They resolved the problems with the Damascus airport," said a passenger speaking on France-Info radio identified as May Bsat.

The Boeing 777, carrying 185 people, took off for an overnight layover in Cyprus then landed safely in Beirut on Thursday.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Man fires insect repellent in Oregon robbery

ROSEBURG, Ore. (AP)—Police in Roseburg, Ore., say a man who robbed a restaurant was armed with a can of bug spray. Sgt. Aaron Dunbar says the robber entered Elmer's Restaurant late Monday wearing a reen hooded sweatshirt, gloves and a beanie atop a shoulder-length blond wig that was pulled partly across his face. A bartender tried to bat away the can of insect repellent when the robber brandished it, but the employee got a direct spray to the face. The *Roseburg News-Review* reports the robber grabbed money from a cash box behind the bar and fled. The amount of the take wasn't disclosed.

Mass. man gets 'wrong' lottery ticket, wins $1M

BRAINTREE, Mass. (AP)—When a store clerk gave a Massachusetts man a different kind of scratch-off lottery ticket than he asked for, he didn't make a big deal about the mistake; he said he just "rolled with it." It was a good decision: He won $1 million. Richard Brown of Taunton said he went into Gulf Taunton recently and asked for a $5 "Blue Ice 7s" ticket, but the clerk was distracted and instead gave him a "Sizzlin 7s" ticket. Brown selected the cash option on the prize and received a one-time lump sum payment of about $430,000 after taxes. He plans to use the money for a new roof on his home and to take a trip to San Francisco. The store gets a $10,000 commission.

Your ad here? NY brothers promote toilet-paper ads

RYE BROOK, N.Y. (AP)—Two brothers from a New York City suburb have an advertising concept that's on a roll—a roll of toilet paper. Bryan and Jordan Silverman are creators of toilet tissue printed with ads, and sometimes with coupon codes that can be read by cellphones. The *Journal-News* says in a story Sunday that the brothers expect their product to appear this fall in the Port Chester-Rye Brook Public Library. Twenty-two-year-old Jordan Silverman came up with the idea for Star Toilet Paper in 2010. His 18-year-old brother tells the newspaper that he was initially skeptical but came to see it as advertising to "a really captive audience." The brothers from Rye Brook have entered their concept in a contest run by Entrepreneur magazine.

Science & Technology

T-Mobile brings back unlimited data plan

NEW YORK (AP)—Unlimited wireless data is back. After sliding off the menu of cellphone plans, data plans with no caps are making a comeback at smaller wireless companies trying to compete with AT&T and Verizon.

T-Mobile USA, the nation's fourth-largest cellphone company, said Wednesday that it will start selling an unlimited-data plan again on Sept. 5, after stopping sales of such plans early last year. A day earlier, No. 5 carrier MetroPCS cut the price of its unlimited-data plan as a promotion for a limited time.

The moves by T-Mobile USA and MetroPCS, neither of which sells the iPhone, come as their three larger rivals are thought to be gearing up to begin selling the iPhone 5 in a month or so.

No. 3 carrier Sprint Nextel Corp. already has an unlimited-data plan and credits that with helping it attract customers for its smartphones.

AT&T, the nation's second-largest carrier, stopped signing up customers for unlimited data plans two years ago, while No. 1 Verizon Wireless stopped last year. Both have shifted toward lifting all limits on calls and texting, but limiting data usage.

From a network management perspective, that makes sense, as calls and texts use very little network capacity, while video downloads and other data use can clog the network and slow the service for everyone. The iPhone and the data use it encouraged initially caused big problems for AT&T in New York and San Francisco. Sprint's network is showing signs of congestion in some tests.

HP has $8.9B loss on expected charge for EDS flop

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Hewlett-Packard absorbed the largest quarterly loss in its history as the Silicon Valley pioneer owned up to past mistakes that have left it scrambling to adapt to a shifting technology market.

The loss of $8.9 billion announced Wednesday didn't come as a surprise. HP telegraphed the news earlier this month when it disclosed plans to take an $8 billion charge to reflect the shrinking value of Electronic Data Systems, a technology consulting service it bought for $13 billion in 2008.

It represented another mortifying setback for a 73-year-old company that once had the reputation for being a fountain of innovation -and a great place to work, to boot. Now, HP is struggling to reverse perceptions that it's becoming a technological dinosaur bogged down in bureaucracy as it slashes its work force to help offset a downturn in revenue.

The company is counting on Meg Whitman, its third CEO in slightly more than two years, to be its savior. While stressing she believes HP can still be great again, Whitman made it clear Wednesday that it will be a long slog.

"Make no mistake about it: We are still in the early stages of a turnaround," Whitman told analysts during a conference call.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

Request for Proposal
RFP12-GOV-108

ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE RENOVATION OF THE TINIAN HEALTH CENTER, SAN JOSE, TINIAN MP

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Capital Improvement Office, is soliciting sealed proposals for the Architectural and Engineering Design Services for the BUILDING ASSESSMENT of the Tinian Health Center, San Jose Village, Tinian MP, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by the Department of Interior. The Local Business Preference as amended by Public Law 15-95 and further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local proposers because its use is prohibited by the Federal Law granting the funds for this project.

This project is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations dated May 24, 2001. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 4-102 of the Regulations.

Prior to being awarded a design contract, the firm or company must have obtained a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Board of Professional Licensing.

The Scope of Work (SOW) will be available on Wednesday, August 29, 2012 at the Capital Improvement Office, Office of the Governor. No fee is required in obtaining this proposal package. A Pre-Proposal Meeting is scheduled on at the Governor's Office, Capitol Hill, Saipan on Wednesday, September 12, 2012. The project completion time for this project is 45 calendar days. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia, P.E., CIP Project Manager at fax no. 670-664-2408 or via email at balajadiaelizabeth@hotmail.com no later than Wednesday, September 19, 2012, 4:30 p.m., local time.

Proposals shall not exceed twenty five (25) pages. Note that a firm or company that submits as a prime consultant cannot submit as a sub-consultant on another proposal. However, sub-consultants maybe included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
1. Qualification and Experience on similar projects – (25%)
2. Project Approach – (25%)
3. Work load and resources to accomplish the work in the required time frame – 25%)
4. Past performance with the CNMI Government on similar projects – (25%)

Proposals must be sealed and marked by September 6, 2012. For proposals within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than September 26, 2012. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitted an Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to submit proposal must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 4:30p.m. on September 26, 2012 local time, and maybe submitted via facsimile to (670)664-1515, or via email to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the sealed proposals must be marked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal services of the foreign country no later than September 26, 2012 AND must be received no later than October 2, 2012. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussion shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

A contract shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms maybe selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The successful proposer(s) will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement and Supply Regulations Section 3-301.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer(s) awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become the property of the Government.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS, Lieutenant Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

Life & Style

Book on bin Laden raid coming out Sept. 11

WASHINGTON (AP)—A member of the U.S. Navy SEAL team that killed Osama bin Laden has written a firsthand account of the operation, triggering more questions about the possible public release of classified information involving the historic assault of the terror leader's compound in Pakistan.

U.S. military officials say they do not believe the book has been read or cleared by the Defense Department, which reviews publications by military members to make sure that no classified material is revealed.

The book, titled "No Easy Day" and scheduled to be released next month on the 11th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, comes amid a heated debate over whether members of the military—both active duty and retired—should engage in political battles.

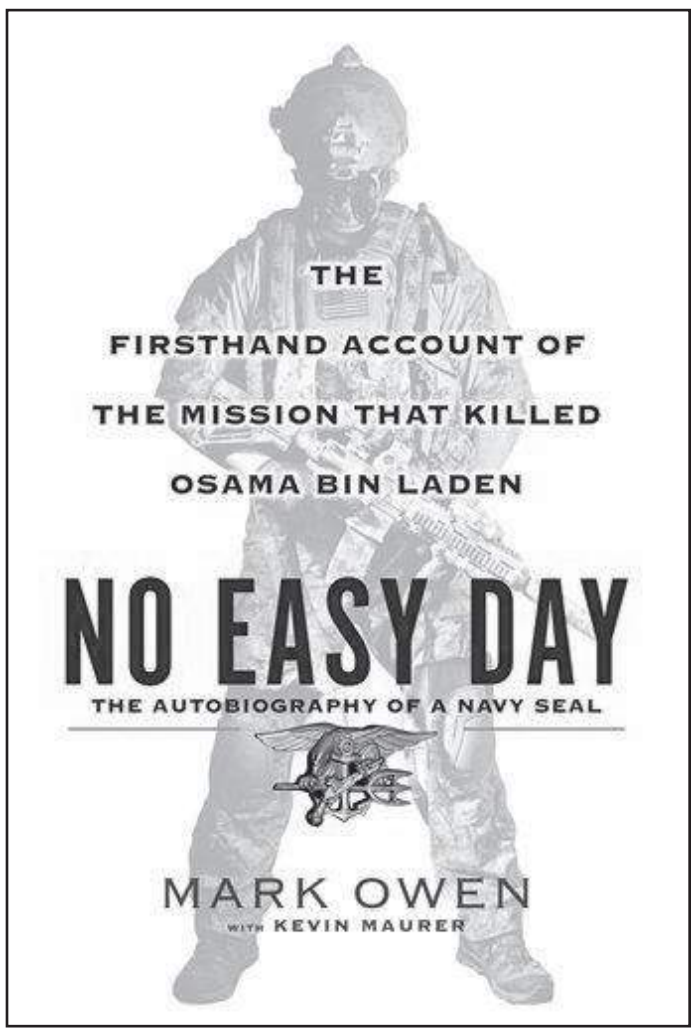
"I haven't read the book and am unaware that anyone in the Department has reviewed it," said Pentagon press secretary George Little. White House and CIA officials also said the book had not been reviewed by their agencies.

The book announcement comes just as a group of retired special operations and CIA officers have launched a campaign accusing President Barack Obama of revealing classified details of the mission and turning the killing of bin Laden into a campaign centerpiece. The group complains that Obama has taken too much credit for the operation.

Their public complaints drew a rebuke from Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as well as other special operations forces, who called the partisan criticism unprofessional.

Dempsey said that such public political involvement by members of armed services erodes public confidence and trust in the military.

The author of the upcoming bin Laden book, who has left the military, is using the pseudonym Mark Owen. And



AP

This book cover image released by Dutton shows "No Easy Day: The Firsthand Account of the Mission that Killed Osama Bin Laden," by Mark Owen with Kevin Maurer.

in a news release from publisher Dutton, an imprint of Penguin Group (USA), Owen describes the book as an effort to "set the record straight about one of the most important missions in U.S. military history."

He said the book is about "the guys" and the sacrifices that the special operations forces make to do the job and is written in the hope that it will inspire young men to become SEALs.

If the book sticks to his personal thoughts about the job and the mission, Owen may be in the clear. But often special operations forces must sign nondisclosure agreements. And they are not allowed to release classified information, such as intelligence data or military tactics and procedures used to ensure success of the May 2011 raid.

Christine Ball, a spokeswoman for Dutton, said the work was vetted by a former special operations attorney provided by the author.

"He vetted it for tactical, technical and procedural information as well as information that could be considered classified by compilation and found it to be without risk to national security," Ball said.

Defense Department spokesman Lt. Col. James Gregory said that if the book reveals classified information about the raid, the Pentagon would "defer to the Department of Justice."

According to Pentagon regulations, retired personnel, former employees and non-active duty members of the Reserves "shall use the DoD security review process to ensure that information they submit for public release does not compromise national security."

The CIA also could weigh in because the agency ran the secret bin Laden mission.

If there is classified information in the book, the former SEAL could face criminal charges. And even if he donates the money to charity, for instance, that is unlikely to prevent the Justice Department from suing to collect any future book proceeds.

We Are Forever Grateful

As we begin the new chapter in our lives without our dearly beloved wife and mother

†CATHERINE VIVIAN FLORES DELEON GUERRERO,

we, her family, are very grateful to the many families and friends from near and far, who stood by us during the most difficult and painful moments of our lives. Your companionship, words of comfort, support, kindness and most especially your outpouring love which embraced us, gave us all the strength and hope that our dearly beloved is now resting peacefully with God and at home in Paradise.

Our heartfelt gratitude to Fr. Ryan, Fr. Celso and Fr. Jesse for your guidance and prayers; Tan Ko Palacios and the altar servers for your assistance and services; to the Oloomay Family Choir for the comforting music; and to our techa, Ms. Jocelyn Deleon Guerrero for leading us in prayers.

We are forever grateful to the doctors and nurses at the Commonwealth Health Center, the Cancer Center on Guam, Asian Hospital and Medical Center, Makati Medical Center and St. Lukes Medical Center in the Philippines, for all your untiring care and assistance extended to our dearly beloved in her time of medical needs.

To one and all, dangkulo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase for your presence at the daily masses and rosaries in memory of our dearly beloved, most especially at her funeral service. Our hearts are deeply touched and as we live on each day, may her wonderful memories live on in our hearts.

May God's blessings and graces continue to dwell on us every day of our lives.

Crispin I. Deleon Guerrero, children and families

Author Rowling schedules NYC appearance Oct. 16

NEW YORK (AP)—This fall, British writer J.K. Rowling plans to make her one and only in-person appearance in the U.S. to promote her first novel for adults.

The "Harry Potter" author will discuss "The Casual Vacancy" at New York's Jazz at Lincoln Center on Oct. 16. The venue can seat about 1,100 people.

Little, Brown and Company announced Wednesday that Rowling will be interviewed on stage by fellow author Ann Patchett and will take "select" audience questions. Rowling also will sign copies of her new book for each audience member. Booksellers will have access to a live web cast.

Tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-serve basis, starting Sept. 10. Prices range from $44 for phone purchases, $43 for online and $37 at the Jazz at Lincoln Center box office.

From Dallas to London for JR

AP

U.S actors Patrick Duffy, Linda Gray and Larry Hagman arrive for the Dallas launch party at a central London venue, Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2012.

LONDON (AP)—Cowboys, stetsons, bucking broncos and J.R. masks—it could only be the arrival of "Dallas" in London.

Stars Larry Hagman, Linda Gray and Patrick Duffy were at a Southfork Ranch outpost by the River Thames on Tuesday night to launch the rebooted soap with a big Texan party.

The younger generation of actors—Jesse Metcalfe, Josh Henderson, Jordana Brewster and Julie Gonzalo—also was there.

After success in the U.S., the first season of the new "Dallas" TV series will be shown in the U.K. beginning Sept. 5 on Channel 5.

Duffy, who plays Bobby Ewing, says it was British audiences who helped the show become a hit the first time around, when they adopted the nighttime soap and made it popular around the world.

He's hoping they'll do the same with the re-launched version.

Hollywood's 3 Bs for fall: Bond, Bella, Bilbo

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The B-list rules Hollywood's fall and holiday movie season: Bond, Bella and Bilbo.

Daniel Craig is back as James Bond in "Skyfall," the super-spy's first adventure in four years, one of the longest 007 hiatuses in the franchise's 50-year history.

Kirsten Stewart returns for her swan song as Bella Swan, alongside vampire hubby Robert Pattinson and jealous werewolf pal Taylor Lautner in "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn—Part 2," the franchise finale.

And Bilbo Baggins goes jewelry shopping for an evil ring in "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey," the first installment in Peter Jackson's three-part prelude to his Academy Award-winning adaptation of J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings."

Ian McKellen, Cate Blanchett, Elijah Wood and others reprise their "Lord of the Rings" roles, but "The Hobbit" hinges on newcomer Martin Freeman as Bilbo. The filmmakers were so set on him that production halted for three months while Freeman returned to "Sherlock," the British TV hit in which he plays Dr. Watson.

"It was sort of unheard of for a big-budget movie, but because we wanted him so badly, the studio supported us, and we made that provision in our schedule," Jackson said. "He carries the movie. You get that casting wrong and you're in huge trouble."

AP

This film image released by Warner Bros., shows Ian McKellen as Gandalf in a scene from the fantasy adventure "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey."

Here's a look at other upcoming highlights:

SEPTEMBER:

Adam Sandler's in voice-only mode as Dracula in the animated monster mash "Hotel Transylvania." Joaquin Phoenix stars as a World War II vet mesmerized by a cult leader (Philip Seymour Hoffman) in "The Master." For baseball fans, there's "Trouble with the Curve," starring Clint Eastwood as an old-timer on a scouting trip with his daughter (Amy Adams).

Time-travel geeks can watch Joseph Gordon-Levitt as a hit man trying to snuff his older self (Bruce Willis) in "Looper," also featuring Emily Blunt.

Gordon-Levitt underwent three hours of makeup each day to look more like Willis. He repeatedly watched his co-star's movies and studied Willis' dialogue on his iPod.

"But the most productive thing was just spending time with him. Having dinner, talking about music or whatever and getting to know each other," Gordon-Levitt said. "That's when I felt I was learning the most about what I could incorporate into how I was going to play this character."

OCTOBER:

Liam Neeson returns as a violently over-protective family man in "Taken 2." Brad Pitt's a mob enforcer tracking rogue hoods in "Killing Them Softly." Kevin James goes from lethargic science teacher to mixed martial-arts sensation in the comedy "Here Comes the Boom."

Ben Affleck directs and stars in "Argo," a rescue thriller about the 1979 Iranian hostage crisis. Tom Hanks, Halle Berry and a big ensemble take on multiple roles in "Cloud Atlas," an epic spanning centuries and genres.

And Tim Burton resurrects an old friend with "Frankenweenie," his animated update of a live-action short film he made in the 1980s, centered on a kid who pulls a Frankenstein to revive his cherished, perished dog.

Michael Jackson nephew appointed co-guardian

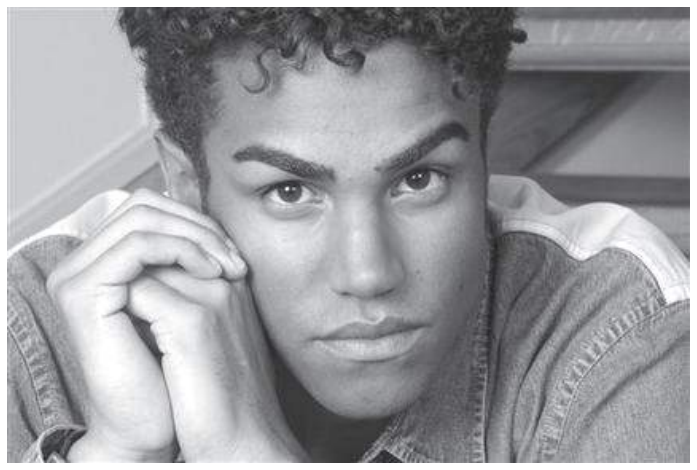
LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge appointed Michael Jackson's nephew on Wednesday to share guardianship responsibilities for the singer's three children, but not without a last-minute effort by some relatives to delay the decision.

Superior Court Judge Mitchell Beckloff named TJ Jackson as the children's co-guardian who will now share responsibilities for raising the siblings, who range in ages from 10 to 15.

The judge made the ruling after considering a letter submitted by singer Diana Ross, who was named in Michael Jackson's will as a potential guardian, and a letter presented by cousins of the singer who sought a delay in the appointment.

Debra Jackson and her son Anthony urged Beckloff to delay his ruling, saying they were concerned that family matriarch Katherine Jackson was being coerced. The pair said they had been ostracized from the family and that the children may not be as excited about TJ Jackson's appointment as has been presented to the judge.

But Beckloff noted that all three children have said they consent to the co-guardianship, and that an independent investigation he ordered showed they "have a very strong, loving relationship with TJ Jackson."



AP

This Nov. 13, 2003 file photo shows TJ Jackson, son of Tito Jackson, one of the original Jackson Five.

He urged TJ Jackson to consider allowing the cousins to visit the family, but said there was no reason to delay. The appointment means that Katherine Jackson, 82, and TJ Jackson, 34, will share responsibilities for raising the children. If one of them is no longer able to serve, the other would become the children's sole guardian.

TJ Jackson smiled as he entered the courtroom wearing a dark suit and tie and spoke only briefly to exchange pleasantries with the judge at the start of the hearing. He appeared calm afterward, but was escorted in and out of the courthouse by deputies and did not speak with reporters.

Debra and Anthony Jackson also declined comment after the hearing, merely confirming their names and relationship to the family.

Their letter and one submitted by Diana Ross were not filed with the court and will not be made public, court officials said.

Katherine Jackson's attorney, Sandra Ribera, disputed their claims that her client is being improperly influenced.

"Mrs. Jackson is well informed," she said. "Mrs. Jackson is a strong woman who cannot be influenced by anyone when it comes to decisions about these children."

TJ Jackson was appointed a temporary guardian last month when Katherine Jackson was incommunicado during a stay at an Arizona spa with relatives.

Beckloff has said Katherine Jackson is doing a great job raising Prince, Paris and Blanket Jackson, but noted that having a co-guardian will allow for continuity in their lives if she is no longer able to serve.

TJ Jackson was a relative unknown to the public before the recent rift in the family. He performs in a band called 3T along with his brothers and was close to his uncle, Michael, before the pop star died in June 2009 at age 50.

TJ Jackson is a cousin of the children and has remained close to them in the years since the singer's death.

Wednesday's hearing had been expected to be a legal formality and although Beckloff made time to hear the cousins' grievances, the judge didn't waver in his view that the co-guardianship arrangement was appropriate. He noted that it is frequently employed in other cases. The mother of the two eldest children, Deborah Rowe, has indicated she is comfortable with the arrangement. Michael Jackson's youngest son, Blanket, was born to a surrogate and the mother's identity has never been revealed.

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Friday, August 24th through Tuesday, August 28th
OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

NOW SHOWING

Step Up: Revolution

Friday		4:30	7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	10:00
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday thru Tuesday		4:30	7:30	

Cast: Ryan Guzman, Kathryn McCormick
Drama • Rated PG13

Synopsis

The latest movie in the Step Up franchise aims for a politicized message behind all the flashy moves, but it could do with a lot less plot and a lot more dancing. In Step Up Revolution, the Miami dance group "The Mob" takes to the streets (and other random locations) to perform intricately choreographed routines with their own DJ, a camera guy who uploads their videos to YouTube, and a graffiti artist who leaves their signature behind.

Madea's Witness Protection

Friday		4:05	7:10	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:05	7:10	9:35
Sunday	1:20	4:05	7:10	
Monday thru Tuesday		4:05	7:10	

Cast: Eugene Levy, Denise Richards
Comedy, Drama • Rated PG13

Synopsis

A crooked investor (Eugene Levy) is forced to go into the Witness Protection Program and ends up having to live with the brazen Madea in this comedy-drama that marks Tyler Perry's return to the beloved character. Romeo Miller and Denise Richards co-star.

Hit and Run

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:40
Saturday	1:00	4:20	7:20	9:40
Sunday	1:00	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Tuesday		4:20	7:20	

Cast: Dax Shepard, Bradley Cooper
Action • Rated R

The Expendables 2

Friday		4:10	7:05	9:55
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:05	9:55
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:05	
Monday thru Tuesday		4:10	7:05	

Cast: Sylvester Stallone, Jason Statham, Jet Li
Action • Rated R

Paranorman

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:30
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:30
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Tuesday		4:15	7:15	

Cast: Susan Dudeck, Donna Lynn Leavy
Children's/family • Rated PG

Bourne Legacy

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:00	7:00	9:45
Sunday	1:05	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Tuesday		4:00	7:00	

Cast: Jeremy Renner, Rachel Weisz
Spy film, Action • Rated PG13

Total Recall

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:50
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:50
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Tuesday		4:25	7:25	

Cast: Colin Farrell, Kate Beckinsale, Jessica Biel
Science, Fiction • Rated PG13

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS

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What happens in Vegas, doesn't stay in Vegas

LAS VEGAS (AP)—What happens in Vegas ... doesn't stay in Vegas. It is a marketing ploy, people. Really.

Oh sure, you've seen the commercials, the ones that say anything goes here. Even the straight-laced are seen smoking cheap cigars and playing slots before they've left the airport.

But Prince Harry is not alone. Everyone is fair game, especially when cameras are standard equipment on smartphones and Facebook is just a click away.

Note these examples:

■ After a September 2010 concert at the Hard Rock's Wasted Space nightclub, a bathroom attendant noticed Bruno Mars was taking a long time in a stall—accompanied by a little bag of white powder. A security guard confronted him as he left, and Mars ended up getting probation and community service for a cocaine charge—all as his song "Just the Way You Are" climbed the Billboard charts.

AP

This is a Saturday March 10, 2012 file photo of Britain's Prince Harry, smiles after playing rugby at Flamengo's beach in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

■ In 2010, a police officer stopped the car Paris Hilton was riding in after noticing a "vapor trail" of marijuana smoke wafting from the windows. Once inside the Wynn resort on the Strip, Hilton reached in her Chanel purse for lip balm but ended up dropping a small bag of cocaine—right in front of the officer. She told authorities it wasn't hers and she thought it was gum.

■ A group of General Services Administration employees got some unwelcome fame when the goofy skits they prepared for a lavish conference in October 2010 ended up on YouTube. A congressional panel wasn't as amused by one employee's ditty about never getting audited by the inspector general. Heads rolled when word got out that the $820,000 event included a taxpayer funded clown, mind-reader, and 24 unassembled bicycles for a team-building exercise.

■ Britney Spears walked down the aisle in jeans and a baseball cap in 2004. The pop princess ended up waking up in Vegas next to her childhood friend and decided she should trim that whole "till death do us part" thing to 55 hours of wedded bliss.

■ And, last, but not least, Prince Harry, the third in line to the British throne, played a game of strip billiards, only to find that someone leaked blurry photos of the naked royal cozied up to an apparently undressed mystery woman. Prince Harry's office confirmed Wednesday that the photos were of the prince, but declined to make any further comment.

Vivienne Jolie-Pitt makes her film debut with mom

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Four-year-old Vivienne Jolie-Pitt is making her movie debut alongside her famous mom.

Walt Disney Studios says Angelina Jolie's youngest daughter will play a "minor role" in "Maleficent," in which Jolie plays the title character. Vivienne is set to play a young Princess Aurora, who grows up to be evil Maleficent's target in the live-action "Sleeping Beauty" tale.

Production on the film began in London in June. "Maleficent" is set to hit theaters in March of 2014.

No word if Vivienne's twin brother, Knox, is working on a movie career of his own.

AP

In this Feb. 11, 2012 file photo, Angelina Jolie attends the news conference of the film "In the Land of Blood and Honey" at the 62 edition of the Berlinale International Film Festival in Berlin.

Alicia Silverstone in Broadway's 'The Performers'

AP

This Sept. 13, 2011 file photo shows actress Alicia Silverstone attending the Instyle and Hollywood Foreign Press party at the Windsor Arms Hotel during the Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto.

NEW YORK (AP)—Alicia Silverstone is coming back to Broadway—in a romantic comedy set in the porn industry.

Producers of David West Read's comedy "The Performers" said Wednesday the actress will join Henry Winkler and "30 Rock" star Cheyenne Jackson in the play, which begin previews Oct. 23 at the Longacre Theatre.

It's about two high school friends who reconnect at the Adult Film Awards in Las Vegas. Silverstone will play the girlfriend of one of the friends.

The rest of the cast includes Daniel Breaker, Ari Graynor and Jenni Barber. Evan Cabnet, director of Read's "The Dream of the Burning Boy," will direct.

Big Time Rush supports first lady's fit campaign

WASHINGTON (AP)—Big Time Rush says they want to do more than play music in support of Michelle Obama's healthy living campaign—they want to be her "fit representatives of America."

Band member Logan Henderson says the band wants to get kids involved in being healthy and exercising because "it's a huge part of our lifestyle."

The group performed a few songs including their new single "Windows Down" for winners of Mrs. Obama's healthy lunch recipe contest at the Kids' State Dinner luncheon held at the White House on Monday.

The band, favorites of the Obama daughters, have also started recording songs for their third album and will begin filming season four of their self-titled Nickelodeon show early next year. They are making stops in 60 cities for their summer tour.

AP

In this March 9, 2012 file image, the boy band Big Time Rush, from left, James Maslow, Carlos Pena Jr., Kendall Schmidt and Logan Henderson, pose for a portrait in their dressing room at Radio City Music Hall in New York.

Woman's daily phone calls are suffocating to friendship

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I'm writing for advice on friendship. There is a person who insists we are "best friends." She calls every day to gossip and get into people's business, including mine. We are grown women and I find this childish.

I am a loner. I don't like too many people in my space, but I don't want to hurt her feelings. I just want her to get a life. I'm married; she's single. We have nothing in common, in my opinion, and she tries to keep up with my every move. If I don't answer the phone at home, she calls me at work.

Help me tell this person, without being hurtful and rude, that I like her but I want to have a normal adult relationship with her. I have other close friends, but I don't have to call or talk to them every day to maintain our friendship.

INFRINGED UPON IN MISSISSIPPI

DEAR INFRINGED UPON: The woman may be trying to live vicariously through you, which is why she's calling daily and pumping you for information. Tell her that phone calls at work are distracting, so please don't call you there.

She should also be told that while you like her, the closeness she craves has become claustrophobic and is making you uncomfortable, so to please limit her calls to one or two a week. If you do not set boundaries, you can't expect her to observe them.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I know a fairly well-to-do couple who, after living together for a while, have decided to get married. I went to their online wedding registry to select something for them and was stunned to see that several of the items they had on there were pricey items for their CATS. Is this the status quo these days, or is it just plain bad taste?

I chose to put money toward another item, but now I'm wondering if it will go where it was directed -- and not to the cats. It was also suggested that I provide an email address so that an e-card of thanks might be sent.

Abby, you keep telling your readers that times have changed. I reluctantly guess we need to resign ourselves to the emails, but what is your take on the gift suggestions?

OFFENDED WEDDING GUEST IN NEW YORK

DEAR OFFENDED: The couple you mentioned may have most (or all) of the household items they need. While the request for something for their pets instead of themselves is somewhat unusual, no rule of etiquette forbids it. The object is to give something they can use, and I'm having trouble understanding why you find their request offensive.

I do, however, take exception to the idea of a generic, mass mailing being used to acknowledge wedding gifts rather than an INDIVIDUAL thank you. If that's what they're planning, it seems more of an impersonal "shrug" than an actual expression of gratitude.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: A woman at work wears flip-flops every day. The sound of her walking is extremely annoying, to the point where I get a headache every day. The boss says her footwear is fine. Any advice? Thanks.

FOOTSTEPS IN OHIO

DEAR FOOTSTEPS: If the boss says her footwear is fine, then you're out of luck. Wear earplugs, use aspirin as directed and pray for an early winter.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Is it wrong to answer a question with a question?

CURIOUS IN K.C.

DEAR CURIOUS: Why do you ask?

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

AS SOON AS WE TURN THE LIGHTS OFF, THE MONSTERS WILL COME BACK OUT FROM UNDER THE BED.
THEY'RE NOT GOING TO GO AWAY, SO I GUESS WE NEED TO FIND SOME WAY TO LIVE WITH THEM.
IT'S HARD TO CO-EXIST WITH THINGS THAT WANT TO KILL YOU.
WELL WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING.
WE ARE. WE'RE STAYING AWAKE ALL NIGHT WITH THE LIGHTS ON.
I WONDER IF WE COULD SET FIRE TO THE BED WITHOUT BURNING THE HOUSE DOWN

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

DAD. CAN WE GET A DOG?
WELL, LET'S TRY THE IMAGINARY...
NO IMAGINARY TRIAL DOGS. WE WANT A REAL ONE.
SORRY. I HAVE MY TERMS.
YOU JUST FORCED ME TO PLAY MY TRUMP CARD.
TRUMP CARD?
WHY ARE YOU PUTTING SUNGLASSES ON?
IS YOUR LIFE INSURANCE PAID UP?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Cookie container
4 Acknowledge
8 Work units
12 — Khan
13 Part of N.B.
14 Panorama
15 Acted as a go-between
17 Sicilian volcano
18 Data
19 Armada
20 Propaganda pamphlet
22 Unctuous
24 Solemn pledge
25 Haphazardly
29 Cravat
30 Square dance group
31 Ostrich's cousin
32 Chess climaxes
34 Finished
35 Addict
36 Small lizard
37 Characteristic
40 Antitoxins
41 Count counterpart
42 Fully filled
46 Regimen
47 N. Mex. neighbor
48 Historic time
49 Do in
50 Electrician's supply
51 Parched

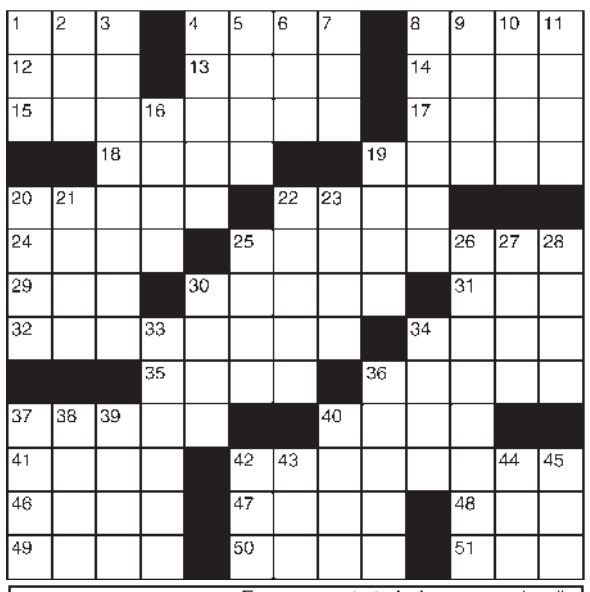
DOWN

1 Predicament
2 Life time?
3 Shone brightly
4 Sternward
5 Kill a bill
6 Inseparable
7 Marry
8 Novelist Waugh
9 Ceremony
10 Actor Hackman
11 Hit a fly
16 Foot fraction
19 Level
20 Schlep
21 Reason for a tarp
22 Playful water critter
23 Enrages
25 Pinnacle
26 Strayed
27 Portent
28 Gloom
30 Brewer's oven
33 Culpable
34 Gumbo need
36 Capture
37 Danson and Koppel
38 Bar
39 Geometry calculation
40 Use a teaspoon
42 Witnessed
43 "Entourage" role
44 Mess up
45 Rotation duration

Solution time: 25 mins.

C	O	I	F	■	L	A	C	■	A	S	H	Y
H	U	R	L	■	I	D	O	■	S	T	O	A
A	S	I	A	■	B	E	L	■	P	R	E	P
D	E	S	C	R	Y	■	U	V	E	A	■	■
■	■	■	C	O	A	I	M	I	N	I	N	G
O	P	T	I	C	■	O	B	I	■	G	O	O
T	O	A	D	■	T	W	O	■	W	H	E	N
I	L	L	■	C	O	E	■	T	I	T	L	E
C	O	L	E	P	O	R	T	E	R	■	■	■
■	■	T	I	L	L	■	U	N	E	A	S	E
C	L	A	D	■	B	U	H	■	I	R	O	U
P	I	L	E	■	A	S	I	■	A	G	O	G
U	S	E	R	■	R	A	N	■	P	O	N	Y

Yesterday's answer 8-24



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rupert Grint, 24; Chad Michael Murray, 31; Alex O'Loughlin, 36; Marlee Matlin, 47.

Happy Birthday: Emotional matters can ruin your plans. Separate what you must do from what you want to do. Make detailed and organized plans that will allow you to find a way to complete everything on your to-do list. Your numbers are 3, 11, 16, 27, 31, 34, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You may have some interesting ideas, but before you jump in with two feet make sure they are feasible. Don't let someone you love take advantage of you. A change in your financial situation will be due to your living arrangements. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Not everyone will lead you down the right path. Listen to what's being offered, but don't sign up. Don't be afraid to branch out on your own if you have a better plan or service to offer. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Listen carefully to what's being said. Someone you are close to may not be telling you the truth. Rely on past experience to help you decipher what's going to unfold. Once you feel certain, express your concerns. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): An impulsive move will leave you in a precarious position. You are best to get out and network with people who have the potential to help you get ahead. Love is in the stars, and planning something special for two will bring good results. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Wager the pros and cons before you voice your opinion. Not everyone will be happy with your choices. Make all your arrangements first to avoid interference. An emotional scene will leave you feeling guilty. Do what's best for you. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Watch every move you make. Someone will be ready to criticize you if you make a mistake. Don't let past problems resurface. Concentrate on the moment and what you can do now to make your life better in the future. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Resolve issues that are holding you back personally and professionally. Don't stifle the way you feel. It's your turn to speak up and force the changes you need made in order to achieve happiness. Don't let love get you down. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Keep up and take charge. Expect to face situations that require you to move quickly. Love is in the stars and taking advantage of an opportunity to spend time with someone you love should be your intent. Set your priorities straight. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Honesty is a must. Trying to hide your true feelings will only lead to trouble. Size up your situation and put whatever problems behind you as quickly as possible. Don't feel guilty when you know you are doing what's right. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): A financial problem can make you look bad if you try to cover up a mistake you made. A couple of changes will save the day. It's best to own up to an error and to find a solution. A personal partner needs reassurance. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Make a decision based on your emotional needs. Broaden your horizons by opening doors that were closed in the past. Reconnecting with an old friend will pay off emotionally, mentally and financially. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Overreacting or being impulsive will make matters worse. Separate your emotions from what needs to be done and get with it. Don't make a repeat performance with someone who doesn't deserve a second chance. Love is highlighted; choose wisely. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are creative, detailed and capable. You are sensitive and unique.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		9					4	
			3	1	5			9
5					7			
	4					2	5	
	3			6			1	
	9	2					8	
			1					4
4			6	9	2			
	1					3		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	8	9	3	6	1	7	4	2
3	6	4	9	2	7	5	1	8
7	2	1	8	4	5	9	6	3
6	3	2	5	7	8	1	9	4
4	1	7	6	9	2	8	3	5
8	9	5	1	3	4	6	2	7
2	7	6	4	5	9	3	8	1
9	4	8	7	1	3	2	5	6
1	5	3	2	8	6	4	7	9

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

NADIA G **Solution: 7 letters**

S	N	S	L	I	H	K	S	R	E	T	R	A	G	B
S	E	E	T	U	F	Y	T	Y	N	A	F	F	I	T
T	U	V	M	Y	K	L	S	C	R	E	W	T	O	R
N	Q	O	O	S	L	E	O	F	E	H	C	L	S	I
E	R	G	S	L	T	E	H	D	C	H	A	A	I	M
C	A	T	N	E	G	A	E	C	I	P	S	E	A	A
C	G	A	O	O	R	D	N	N	P	R	S	R	M	R
A	O	L	R	V	S	R	E	F	E	I	N	T	A	C
L	O	K	P	H	A	H	A	P	I	C	A	N	C	O
S	D	C	A	D	C	S	A	Z	A	E	H	O	M	R
A	N	L	N	T	H	U	F	E	I	N	L	M	I	A
L	A	A	I	I	H	O	K	O	O	B	O	D	L	F
M	M	K	O	S	O	T	T	E	L	I	T	S	L	A
A	E	N	O	D	M	I	S	Z	K	U	R	K	A	C
N	S	J	S	L	E	E	H	C	O	O	K	I	N	G

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Accent, Alsalman, Amanda, Aprons, Bitchin', Bizarre, Book, Cafaro, Chef, Cooking, Crew, Fashion, Foods, Garque, Garters, Giosia, Gloves, Good, Hala, Hans, Heels, Host, Humor, Joshua, Kitchen, Kyle, Luke, Macmillan, Miszkurka, Montreal, Names, Panos, Picanco, Recipe, Ridolfi, Song, Spice Agent, Stanfield, Stilettos, Style, Talk, Tees, Tiffany, Trimarco

Yesterday's Answer: Melbourne IT

THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 34 is "Caboodle." Vol 3 of Readers' Favorites is "The Biggest Ever." Both are available in bookstores or by calling Universal Uclick at 1-800-591-6240. Order online at www.amuzzlements.com. Contains 45 issues. Print edition: $9.95 each (plus $6.95 shipping). Digital edition: $6.95 each. WONDERWORD, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106. Or call toll-free 1-800-642-6480. Order online at www.puzzles.com. Contains 45 issues. Print edition: $9.95 each (plus $6.95 shipping).

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

WHATZIT Solution: Ticked off

IPod & IPhone Repair
We Buy & Sell
Used IPod & IPhone
Please call 233-5641
Open: Monday-Saturday 9:00am - 9:00pm

LOOKING FOR
BONDED CONSTRUCTION COMPANY
to build my house at my lot.
Call Mercado
Home: 288-3571 or
Cell: 286-3571

QQ RENT A CAR
Starting as low as... $29.99 without Insurance
Call: 233-8855, 483-8866 or 233-8866
$100 Security Deposit Required
Garapan • Susupe • San Antonio
Some conditions may apply

QQ CAR RENTAL, SAN ANTONIO
M&J BEAUTY SALON
Massage (60 mins) $15.00
Facial Care for $15.00
Manicure & Pedicure starting at $5.00
In front of PIC Z Bldg. • 10:30am - 9:30pm
Tel #s: 888-1354, 234-8855

FOR SALE
Machining equipment in very good condition:
8 foot lathe & shaper
$ 4,800.00
Call: 233-0744 or 285-3533

GARAGE SALE
Her-Joy's Apartment in San Antonio
Saturday (6am-12pm)
August 25, 2012
Princess House Crystals, Kids Clothes and a lot more
Obyan Property FOR SALE
Call 256-4770/287-2680 for details

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Guest Relations Agent
Qualification: High School graduate or equivalent. Minimum 2 years work experience in providing quality customer service, preferably in hotel operations. Must have the ability to communicate both oral and written in Chinese and English. Computer literacy is required. Good customer service and interpersonal skills are also required. Must be willing to work weekends and nights including holidays.

Applications may be obtained from Fiesta Resort's security office located at the South Wing. Last day for submission of applications to be considered is August 24, 2012. No phone calls please.

ST. JUDE RENAL CARE FACILITY INC.

ST. JUDE RENAL CARE FACILITY, INC.
is looking for:

Nurse Supervisor (1 position)
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Arroyo's strong start leads Reds over Phils

Cincinnati Reds' Bronson Arroyo throws a pitch to the Philadelphia Phillies in the first inning of a baseball game, Wednesday, Aug. 22, 2012, in Philadelphia.

AP

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Bronson Arroyo and the Cincinnati Reds remained red hot.

Arroyo allowed three hits in eight-plus innings, and Jay Bruce homered to lead Cincinnati to a 3-2 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies on Wednesday night.

It was the 10th win in 13 games for the Reds, who moved a season-high 27 games over .500

Arroyo (10-7), who gave up both runs while striking out four and walking none, retired the first 14 batters before Domonic Brown's two-out homer in the fifth. Brown doubled off the wall in right-center with one out in the eighth and pinch-hitter Kevin Fransden reached on an infield single leading off the ninth for the other hits off Arroyo.

''I had good stuff,'' Arroyo said. ''I was hitting my spots on both sides of the plate. It's one of the best games I've thrown.''

Other than that, the Phillies didn't have anything close to a hit off Arroyo, who was 0-6 with a 9.46 ERA in his last seven regular-season starts against the Phillies. But Arroyo has been hot lately, improving to 6-1 with a 3.50 ERA in his last seven starts.

Giants 8, Dodgers 4

In Los Angeles, Matt Cain pitched seven strong innings, Joaquin Arias homered and drove in a career-high five runs, and the San Francisco Giants beat the Los Angeles Dodgers, 8-4, to extend their NL West lead to 2 1/2 games with their first three-game sweep at Dodger Stadium in five years.

The Giants arrived in Los Angeles trailing the Dodgers by a half-game and they leave with their largest lead in a month.

Braves 5, Nationals 1

In Washington, Kris Medlen understood the enormity of his latest start and he delivered.

The Braves starter pitched seven shutout innings in his latest winning performance and Martin Prado's two-run double proved decisive to help Atlanta end a four-game losing streak with a 5-1 victory over the Washington Nationals.

Marlins 3, Diamondbacks 0

In Phoenix, rookie Wade Miley pitched eight innings to earn his 14th victory, and Arizona beat the Miami Marlins, 3-0, to complete a sweep of the first home doubleheader in Diamondbacks history.

Fellow left-hander Tyler Skaggs made his major league debut in the opener, allowing two runs and three hits over 6 2-3 innings in a 3-2 Diamondbacks victory.

Cardinals 4, Astros 2

In St. Louis, Bud Norris just can't catch a break.

He lost his 10th straight decision as Houston fell to the St. Louis Cardinals, 4-2.

Norris (5-11) allowed three runs in six innings. He's got a 6.78 ERA in his last 14 starts in which he's 0-10.

"I didn't have my best slider tonight but I worked both sides of the plate with my fastball and tried to make some pitches," Norris said.

Rockies 5, Mets 2

In New York, Call 'em Citi slickers. Wilin Rosario and the Colorado Rockies hardly look like a last-place team when they visit the New York Mets.

Rosario hit a tiebreaking homer in the seventh inning, and the Rockies beat New York, 5-2, for their seventh straight victory at Citi Field.

Rosario also had a sacrifice fly, and DJ LeMahieu drove in a run with a squeeze bunt to help the Rockies win their fourth in a row and eighth in 10 games.

Padres 4, Pirates 2

In San Diego, rookie Andrew Werner could barely believe the news two days ago that the San Diego Padres were calling him up to the majors. But Werner made the most of his opportunity.

Werner allowed two runs over six-plus innings in his major league debut and Carlos Quentin drove in three runs, leading the Padres to a 4-2 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Rangers 12, Orioles 2

In Arlington, Texas slugger Adrian Beltre smashed three home runs in the Rangers' 12-3 rout of the visiting Baltimore Orioles on Wednesday.

Beltre launched a homer in each of his first three at bats, connecting in the second inning and twice in the fourth where Texas batted around for nine runs.

Beltre, who now has 22 home runs this season, finished with five RBIs against Baltimore.

White Sox 2, Yankees 1

In Chicago, Chris Sale's pitches were giving the New York Yankees fits from the outset. Even his catcher was surprised by the way the ball was moving.

''I'll call one and he'll throw it 85 (mph) and then next one will be 94. One cuts, one sinks, one goes straight. It's just kind of a guessing game for me out there also,'' catcher A.J. Pierzynski said after Sale struck out 13 in 7 2-3 innings Wednesday night, pitching the Chicago White Sox to a 2-1 victory and a three-game sweep.

Angels 7, Red Sox 3

In Boston, right-hander Clay Buchholz had been emerging as the Boston Red Sox ace this season after a string of strong starts. That changed Wednesday night as the Los Angeles Angels roughed him up at Fenway Park on their way to a 7-3 win.

Buchholz (11-4) lasted just 5 1/3 innings and matched career highs with seven earned runs and 12 hits allowed.

Rays 5, Royas 3

In St. Petersburg, James Shields gave the Tampa Bay Rays another strong pitching performance as they make their push in the AL East.

Shields took a three-hitter into the eighth inning, leading Tampa Bay over the Kansas City Royals 5-3 Wednesday for the Rays' 16th win in 21 games.

Tigers 3, Blue Jays 2

In Detroit, Anibal Sanchez was sharp from the start—but to win this one the Detroit Tigers would need contributions from a couple more of their newest acquisitions.

Sanchez pitched effectively into the seventh inning, Omar Infante tripled and scored, and Jeff Baker drove in a run with a single to lead the Tigers to a 3-2 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays.

Mariners 3, Indians 1

In Seattle, even the postgame pie to the face is improving.

Eric Thames earned his second celebratory shot to the face in the last eight days after his tiebreaking, two-run double with two outs in the eighth inning helped the Seattle Mariners beat the Cleveland Indians, 3-1, for their eighth straight win.

Athletics 5, Twins 1

In Oakland, hours after Major League Baseball suspended Oakland Athletics pitcher Bartolo Colon 50 games without pay for testing positive for testosterone, his teammates took out their frustrations on the lowly Minnesota Twins.

Rookie Tommy Milone pitched allowed one run on two hits in eight innings, and the Oakland Athletics beat the Twins, 5-1, on Wednesday afternoon.

Bartolo Colon suspended 50 games for positive test

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Make it two 50-game suspensions in exactly one week - both starters for contending teams from the Bay Area, both for testosterone.

Former Cy Young Award winner Bartolo Colon of the Oakland Athletics was suspended for 50 games Wednesday after a positive test, joining San Francisco Giants outfielder Melky Cabrera on the suspended list for the rest of the regular season.

Major League Baseball made the announcement of Colon's penalty a week after All-Star game MVP Cabrera received his 50-game suspension

"I apologize to the fans, to my teammates and to the Oakland A's," Colon said in a statement released by the players' association. "I accept responsibility for my actions and I will serve my suspension as required by the joint drug program."

He will miss the final 40 games of the regular season and the first 10 games of the postseason if Oakland advances that far. Any remainder of the suspension would be served in a future season, if Colon signs another major league contract.

"It's a shock," Oakland reliever Grant Balfour said. "He's a guy that we're definitely relying on right now. I guess you could say it's bad timing any time, but especially now."

Oakland, which hasn't made the playoffs since 2006, began Wednesday a half-game out in the AL wild-card race. The A's were preparing for an afternoon series finale against Minnesota when they got the news from clubhouse televisions. A closed-door team meeting was called.

"The Oakland Athletics are disappointed to learn of today's suspension," the team said in a statement.

Starter Brandon McCarthy took that a little further.

"You can say someone's a good teammate, but it has to extend in all facets," McCarthy said after a 5-1 win. "Off the field, on the field and how you are in the clubhouse, no matter how you look at it, we've now lost a really important part of our team to his actions."

General manager Billy Beane received word from MLB earlier Wednesday and began searching for a starter to take Colon's turn in the rotation Thursday at Tampa Bay. Tyson Ross will be called up from Triple-A Sacramento. Ross arrived to the Coliseum and moved into Colon's locker.

"It shocked all of us just the fact someone got caught for that," Ross said.

Beane addressed the A's in the clubhouse before the team took the field for pregame warmups.

"Listen, it's disappointing. From a baseball standpoint, we're scrambling," Beane said. "We're all disappointed, not just for the Giants and the A's, but for baseball."

The 39-year-old Colon is 10-9 with a 3.43 ERA in 24 starts this season, his first with the A's, and has a 171-122 record in 15 big league seasons. A two-time All-Star, the burly right-hander won the 2005 AL Cy Young Award after going 21-8 for the Los Angeles Angels.

Colon will lose the remaining $469,945 of his $2 million base salary this year. He also has earned $750,000 in performance bonuses based on starts and $150,000 based on innings, which are not impacted. Thursday's start would have earned him another $250,000, and the suspension will cost him the chance to make $850,000 in additional bonuses based on innings.

Manager Bob Melvin hadn't spoken to Colon as of late morning Wednesday.

"It is what it is. We certainly don't support the actions, but you have to move forward," Melvin said. "You go through things over the course of the season. This is just one of them. ... You have to have a short memory."

Five players have been suspended this year under the big league drug program. San Francisco reliever Guillermo Mota was penalized 100 games in May following his second positive test and is eligible to return Aug. 28. Philadelphia infielder Freddy Galvis and free agent outfielder Marlon Byrd were suspended 50 games each in June.

Woods faces serious challenger in McIlroy

FARMINGDALE, N.Y. (AP)—The message from Jack Nicklaus still resonates with Tiger Woods.

They were chatting during a practice round at the Presidents Cup nine years ago in South Africa when the topic turned to the various rivals Nicklaus faced over a 25-year stretch of winning majors. Nicklaus told him that day, "Just make sure you're always part of the conversation."

Woods was reminded of that chat Wednesday at The Barclays, when he stood in the back of the room as PGA champion Rory McIlroy finished up his interview.

McIlroy is his latest rival. It's the first time Woods has faced a serious challenger who was younger than him.

"I always wanted to be part of that conversation," Woods said after his pro-am round at Bethpage Black. "That's the neat thing about what Jack had done. He crossed generations, and when you're a part of that conversation for the better part of 25 years, that's saying something. I was kind of hoping when I started off my career I'd be part of that conversation for that length of time."

McIlroy, coming off an eight-shot win at Kiawah Island for his second major, considers it a compliment that he would be mentioned alongside Woods, and he is respectful of everything Woods has accomplished in 17 incomparable years on the PGA Tour.

But the 23-year-old from Northern Ireland can have a little fun.

Woods and McIlroy will be playing together the opening two rounds of The Barclays because the tour groups players based on their FedEx Cup standings during the playoffs. Woods is No. 1 for the fourth time in the six-year history of this series, while McIlroy is No. 3. Zach Johnson will be along for the ride.

Tiger Woods tees off on the second hole of The Barclays Pro-Am golf tournament at Bethpage State Park in Farmingdale, N.Y., Wednesday, Aug. 22, 2012.

AP

McIlroy was asked if he looked forward to playing with Woods, and how much he would love to face him next month in Sunday singles in the Ryder Cup at Medinah.

"It really focuses you from the get-go, a pairing like that," he said. "I feel every time I've played with Tiger, he's sort of brought the best out of me. I really feel focused and obviously want to play well. I'm looking forward to it. I really enjoy his company. I know we'll have a good time out there."

About that point, he noticed Woods had come into the room and was waiting by the back door.

"I'm keeping him waiting here," McIlroy said. "So I'll stop talking about him."

Not so fast.

About that singles match at the Ryder Cup everyone would love to see?

"Yeah, I'd love to go out there," McIlroy said. "I'd love Tiger to go out first and kick his (behind)."

Woods joined in the spontaneous laughter. McIlroy finished up his interview a few minutes later, and as he moved away from the table, he waited by door until Woods walked by and they slapped hands. If a rivalry blossoms, all indications are it will be a friendly one.

There was a tense moment two years ago, when Woods' game was at its lowest level and McIlroy was quoted as saying he would love to face Woods in the Ryder Cup unless his game rapidly improved. Woods was coming off the highest score of his professional career. It was reminiscent of when Stephen Ames poked fun of Woods' accuracy before they faced each other in the first round of the Match Play Championship. Woods won, 9 and 8.

This was different. Woods' initial reaction to the comment was, "At least Rory said, `Unless my game improves.'" They didn't play each other that week in Wales.

Now, the anticipation is building for the first round Thursday at Bethpage Black, where Woods won the U.S. Open in 2002 and tied for sixth when it last came to Long Island during a rainy week in 2009.

The Black doesn't need to have a U.S. Open to be a tough test. The greens are not as firm. The rough is not as dense, though it still should be avoided.

Woods and McIlroy in the same group has taken focus away from the start of these playoffs. The top 100 in the standings advance to the second round at the Deutsche Bank Championship, and then the top 70 move on to the BMW Championship. The top 30 reach the FedEx Cup finale at the Tour Championship, and the winner gets $10 million, the richest payoff in golf.

There are sure to be a few long shots who advance, like Heath Slocum three years ago when he won The Barclays. Some guys might not make it out of the first round.

For now, there are only Tiger and Rory.

"He's a great kid and it's great to be around him," Woods said. "What an amazing talent he really is. I just hope that everyone just lets him grow and develop as a player because it's going to be fun to see over the next 20 years how this kid's career is going to pan out."

From the time he turned pro, Woods had a revolving door of rivals - Ernie Els, David Duval, Phil Mickelson, Vijay Singh. None of them lasted very long. What makes McIlroy more compelling as a rival is that he is a generation younger.

In recent history, those rivalries turn out the best. Nicklaus was 10 years younger than Arnold Palmer when they battled at the U.S. Opens and Masters. Nicklaus was 10 years older than Tom Watson when Watson got him at the Masters and British Open.

By winning the PGA Championship, McIlroy collected his second major at a slightly younger age than Woods. More significantly, however, is that McIlroy twice has won majors by blowing away the field by eight shots. In the last 35 years, only Woods had won a major by that many shots (three times).

McIlroy headed out to get some lunch and go to the practice range, and Woods took his spot behind the table for his interview. He talked about being back at Bethpage, which plays to a par 71 this week, and the busy stretch of four playoff events, capped off by the Ryder Cup.

And he was reminded of what McIlroy said about Medinah, and whether he was ready to take a beating from Boy Wonder in the Ryder Cup.

Woods leaned toward the microphone, smiled and said, "No."

Najera retires as NBA player, to coach D-League's legends

FRISCO, Texas (AP)—Eduardo Najera, the first Mexican-born player drafted in the NBA, retired Wednesday to become the coach of the NBA Development League's Texas Legends.

Najera was drafted by Houston in the second round in 2000. He played 12 NBA seasons with Dallas, Golden State, Denver, New Jersey and Charlotte.

The Legends said Najera will now be the first Mexican-born head coach under the NBA umbrella. The deal also includes Najera becoming a minority owner of the Legends, who are co-owned by Mavericks president of basketball operations Donnie Nelson, and holding a front-office position with the NBA team.

''This is a dream come true,'' Najera said. ''I have long wondered what would be in store for me when I hung up the basketball playing shoes, and this is the perfect opportunity for my post-playing career. The chance to develop as a coach, while also assisting Mark (Cuban) and Donnie with the Mavs, is an ideal situation.''

Najera succeeds Del Harris as the Legends coach. Harris is still with the team as general manager.

The Legends' first coach two years ago was Nancy Lieberman, the first woman to coach a men's pro team.

Najera, who made his NBA debut with the Mavericks in 2000 and played parts of five seasons in Dallas, announced his retirement during a news conference in Mexico City. He played the last two seasons with the Bobcats.

''I have the utmost respect for Eddie,'' Nelson said. ''The work ethic he exhibited as a player, and his knowledge of the NBA game will serve him well in his role as head coach of the Legends. Whether coaching a rookie, or an NBA veteran, coach Najera will have valuable insight for all of our players. I am equally excited to begin working with Eddie in a front office capacity with the Mavericks as he learns the management side of the game. I am proud to be able to call Eddie an ownership partner with the Legends.''

Meanwhile, the Boston Celtics have re-signed forward Jeff Green.

Green missed all of last season after a physical exam revealed an aortic aneurysm. He underwent surgery and became a free agent before signing Wednesday.

The 6-foot-9 Green had been expected to play a key role as a backup forward last season and is being counted on to do that next season. The Celtics obtained him from Oklahoma City in February 2011 with center Nenad Krstic and a first-round draft pick from the Los Angeles Clippers for center Kendrick Perkins and guard Nate Robinson.

In 2010-11, Green averaged 13.3 points, 4.8 rebounds and 32.4 minutes. For his four-year career, the former Georgetown player has averaged 13.9 points and 5.5 rebounds.

Azarenka seeded No. 1, Serena No. 4

NEW YORK (AP)—Top-ranked Victoria Azarenka will be seeded No. 1 at the U.S. Open, with 2006 champion Maria Sharapova at No. 3, and three-time winner Serena Williams at No. 4.

The U.S. Tennis Association announced the seedings Wednesday, strictly following this week's WTA rankings.

Williams captured last month's Wimbledon title and won the London Olympics singles gold medal and women's doubles title with her sister Venus at the event, also played on the Wimbledon grass.

Australian Samantha Stosur, the defending champion, was named seventh seed while three-time winner Kim Clijsters of Belgium, who has won 21 matches in a row at the tournament, is the 23rd seed in her farewell US Open appearance.

Venus Williams, who won the Open in 2000 and 2001, is ranked 47th and is unseeded. Venus Williams is the only former US Open champion not seeded in the field.

Roger Federer is seeded No. 1 among the men. The draw is Thursday. Play begins Monday.

Meanwhile, expect grunts, shrieks, and hoots at the U.S. Open.

That's what fans can look forward to next week, as earplugs will be optional while watching some of the world's top players.

On the women's side, the high-pitched shrieks get the most attention. The WTA in June announced plans to educate young players and coaches to keep the decibels down. There's also been talk about chair umpires using a hand-held ''grunt-o-meter'' - not unlike a radar gun on serves.

Opponents say it's unfair because the noisemakers make it hard to hear when a ball hits the racket, which helps in timing a return. Players also can be penalized under the hindrance rule, if the chair umpires believe it's deliberate and creates an advantage.

Tennis fans have the option of turning down the volume on their TVs or, if watching in person, getting radio headsets.

Here's a look at offenders past and present, the hindrance rule and how to tame the grunters.

Teenager Monica Seles took the modern grunt to new levels in the early 1990s, using two-note ''AH-HEEE'' shrieks to accompany her two-handed shots on both wings. Her memoir noted she started tennis at age 6 and grunted from Day 1 because she was so small and wanted to put every ounce of energy into the ball. The grunt sounded like a martial arts move and apparently worked for Seles, who reached No. 1 at 17 and won eight majors by 19. In 1992, Wimbledon officials asked her to quiet down after Martina Navratilova complained she couldn't hear the ball hit the racket. Seles followed in the guttural footsteps of Jimmy Connors, who provided yells and fist pumps during his spectacular run to the semifinals of the 1991 U.S. Open at age 39.

Saints: Kromer will be interim coach first 6 games

METAIRIE, La. (AP)—The New Orleans Saints designated offensive line coach Aaron Kromer as the interim head coach for the first six regular-season games, when assistant head coach Joe Vitt will have to serve his suspension in connection with the NFL's bounty investigation.

Vitt has been overseeing head coaching duties since Sean Payton's full season suspension began in mid-April, but the Saints held off until Wednesday on a decision concerning who would become the figurehead of the coaching staff when Vitt had to step aside in Week 1.

The 45-year-old Kromer is in his fifth season with the Saints and also serves as running game coordinator.

"This was a difficult decision because we have several coaches on our staff that would do a great job in this role," general manager Mickey Loomis said. "Ultimately, I wanted to have the least amount of change with both the offensive and defensive staffs, and maintain the most continuity with the program that has been in place for the last six years."

The move allows offensive coordinator Pete Carmichael Jr. to maintain his focus exclusively on designing and calling plays for Drew Brees and the Saints' record-setting offense.

AP

Jacksonville Jaguars running back Montell Owens (24) stiff-arms New Orleans Saints linebacker Curtis Lofton (50) in the first half of a preseason NFL football game in New Orleans, Friday, Aug. 17, 2012.

Defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo, who was a head coach the past three seasons in St. Louis, was another option, but he is in his first season in New Orleans and trying to help the Saints adjust to his scheme.

"Aaron has been with us since 2008, he has coached with Sean both in college (at Miami, Ohio) and here at the Saints," Loomis said. "He is very familiar with our team and with the methods we have been successful with. He will do a great job."

Kromer, who interviewed for a head coaching job in St. Louis last offseason, said he appreciated the confidence the Saints are showing in him, but also noted he sees his role as having much more to do with ensuring continuity than putting his personal stamp on the way the team is run.

"Coach Payton has laid a successful foundation here and our jobs are to make sure we keep moving in that direction," Kromer said.

Kromer had been mentioned as an interim head coaching candidate ever since the suspensions both Payton and Vitt were announced in late March, a few weeks after the NFL announced it had uncovered a bounty system in which New Orleans defenders had been paid improper cash bonuses for injuring targeted opponents.

Neither Vitt nor current and former Saints players have admitted to participating in a bounty system as the NFL described it. They have said they ran only a pay-for-performance pool that offered a few hundred dollars— minimal sums relative to NFL contracts—for big plays such as interceptions, sacks, forced fumbles and big clean hits.

Payton, the first NFL head coach ever suspended, and Saints linebacker Jon Vilma, also suspended a full season, received the harshest punishments among those still with New Orleans. Loomis was suspended for the first half of the regular season and defensive end Will Smith was suspended four games.

Former Saints defensive coordinator Gregg Williams, now with St. Louis, has been suspended indefinitely.

The NFL Players Association has sued in federal court to have four punished players' suspensions overturned, and Vilma also has sued individually. None of the punished coaches, however, have challenged their sanctions beyond routine appeals to NFL commissioner Roger Goodell, which were denied.

In the meantime, the Saints have sought to maintain the winning culture they have established in the Payton era and make the playoffs for a fourth-straight season.

The Saints have said throughout training camp that they believed they could weather their unprecedented bounty sanctions because most top assistant coaches and veteran leaders on the roster, such as Brees, have been in New Orleans for most of Payton's first six seasons, including the championship season of 2009-10.

"The thing we have here is a lot of quality assistant coaches," Kromer said earlier in training camp. "We'll still work as a family and as a group and get this thing done in a collective fashion the way Sean Payton trained us to do.

"We all have our own job to do as well. This is unprecedented. There is no right or wrong," Kromer said. "But really it's a fill-in job to run the program the way Sean would run it. ... Everyone on the staff agrees that that's the way it's going to happen."

Kromer played offensive line at Miami, Ohio, and also began his coaching career there in 1990. He has spent his last 11 seasons in the NFL as an assistant with Oakland (2001-04) under John Gurden and Bill Callahan, Tampa Bay (2005-07 under Gruden), and New Orleans (2008-present).

"We have great talent and depth on our coaching staff," Vitt said. "But most importantly we have guys on this coaching staff that clearly understand the foundation of success that Sean has built, and I feel great that Aaron and the rest of the staff will continue to build on that foundation."

Docomo Classic draws support from FHB

First Hawaiian Bank has joined the major sponsors list of the 3rd Annual Docomo Pacific Golf Classic to support the Marianas Tourism Education Council (MTEC).

The Docomo Classic will be held on Sept. 1 at the Kingfisher Golf Links with proceeds of the one-day competition going to MTEC, a non-profit organization that aims to foster and improve community understanding and support for the visitor industry; educate the public, especially students, about the value, social benefits and economic contributions made to the community by the tourism industry; and instill, improve, and promote the "Hafa Adai" hospitality spirit throughout the CNMI.

"It is imperative that we provide proper guidance to our students regarding the importance of our tourism industry and how it can affect the CNMI economy in a positive way" FHB Vice President Juan Lizama said.

Joining FHB, which has donated $2,000 to the tournament, in the major sponsors list are McDonald, DFS Saipan Ltd., Mobil, Marianas Management Corporation, and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

First Hawaiian Bank Vice President Juan Lizama, left, presents the ceremonial check donation for the 3rd Annual Docomo Pacific Golf Classic to Docomo Pacific General Manager James Nelson, right, and Docomo Pacific Retail Operations Manager Pauline Johnson, center.

Hole-In-One sponsors Joeten Motors and Bank of Hawaii are back once again and Triple J Motors has joined in this year. Triple J Motors is giving away a 2013 Mazda 3, while Joeten Motors has the 2012 Ford Fiesta as hole-in-one prize. The third hole-in-one prize is the $10,000 from Bank of Hawaii.

Fiesta Resort & Spa, Delta Air Lines, Kanoa Resort, the Marianas Visitors Authority, Pacifica Insurance, Herman's Bakery, Pacific Islands Club, Dickerson & Quinn, Kautz Glass, JWS Refrigeration, Saipan Tribune, and DataDot Micronesia are also supporting the fundraising tournament.

"It is really heartwarming to see the support of the business community for this worthwhile event. We must do all we can to support non-profit organizations that have a direct impact on tourism and our student community," said Docomo Pacific General Manager James Nelson.

This year's Docomo Classic has an entry fee of $85 and $75 to Docomo Pacific subscribers. Entry forms are available at the Docomo Pacific store on Middle Road in Gualo Rai. Entry fees are accepted at Docomo Pacific. Deadline for submission of entry forms is set for Aug. 30. The weekend event will tee off at 7:30 am.

For more information, contact Nelson at (670) 483-4924 or email jnelson@docomopacific.com. ***(PR)***

TALALEMOTU

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sity of Montana, Montana State University, university of North Dakota, Northern Arizona University, University of North Colorado, California State University-Sacramento, Southern Utah University, and Weber State University (Utah).

Talalemotu, who played for the Ayuyus in the MISO caging and a couple of youth leagues in the CNMI, earned a spot on Vikings after playing just one year of high school ball for the Beaverton Beavers where he started 11 games and made the Third Team All-Metro league as a defensive end.

He is listed at 6'3" at 275-lbs and is being used at defensive end.

"It has always been a dream of mine to play college football and hopefully one day I could make it to the NFL," Talalemtou said in an email to *Saipan Tribune* earlier this week.

He also shared that the best part of playing football is the hype and adrenaline rush he feels after making a big play. However he thinks the most challenging part of the game rests on the technical side, such as remembering the playbook of the new system.

Currently in the middle of fall camp, PSU has been conducting practices all summer and Talalemotu feels that they are looking really good. The Vikings are ranked fourth in the conference, according to the Big Sky preseason polls.

Football is the freshman's only sport and he has yet to declare a major field of study, but is leaning toward Criminology and Criminal Justice.

"Classes haven't started yet, but so far it's been fun and I am enjoying myself. It's a lot of hard work, but it will all pay off in the end. I'd like to make a shout out to my parents, my sisters, my family and friends, and everyone else who has supported me," he added.

Notably, Savali's uncle, Ina, was a member of PSU's 1987 and 1988 NCAA national finalists at the Division II level. Located in Portland's downtown area, the PSU Vikings are also referred to as the Park Block Blockers.

PSU joined the Big Sky in 1996, but has been competing at the college level since 1947. They are traditionally known for using a "run and shoot" style of offense. The group has been coached by Nevada University's former defensive coordinator, Nigel Burton (9-13), since 2009 and has a long running rivalry with the Eastern Washington State Eagles where they compete for year after year for what is known as "The Dam Cup".

The rivalry comes from four dams along the Columbia River that link Oregon and Washington in what is a lengthy 339-mile drive from one school to another.

PSU opens its season this year at home as it faces the Carrol College Saints on Sept.1. The Vikings finished with a 7-4 record last season.

ANJIE'S

From Page 32

tao's baskets in the second kept Freestyl at bay.

Manglona scored six straight markers at one point in the opening canto and added three more to end the first 10 minutes of play with Anjie's Boys enjoying a double-digit advantage, 18-8. Jimmy Tudela helped Manglona give Anjie's Boys a 10-point margin, firing all his 6 markers in the first frame.

Freestyl, which only played its second game after having two rained-out matches, was sluggish when it returned to action, nailing only three field goals and getting more than two markers from only one player (Dennis Morales' 4 points).

Freestyl picked up its scoring a bit in the second frame, tallying 11, but it failed to neutralize Manglona, who had 8 of their 10 points in that canto to keep Anjie's Boys in the driver's seat at the break, 28-19.

Anjie's Boys' lead then went back to 10, 50-40, as Caro and Mettao complemented Manglona's consistent scoring in the third period. Mettao, who was silent in the first half, had 7 in the third, closing out the quarter with his five straight points. Caro also drained 7 markers, while Manglona chipped in 6.

Freestyl had its best offensive game in the third canto, logging 21 points. However Donovan Brennan, who posted 7 markers in that period, got little help from his teammates and their efforts were no match to the Anjie's Boys' trio.

Anjie's Boys retained the twin-digit advantage in the fourth and final canto despite drawing only one field goal from Manglona, as Mettao continued his second-half show. Mettao scored 10 more points in the payoff canto, making three straight baskets midway in the fourth to fend off any comeback attempt from Freestyl (1-1)

Manglona still top-scored for Anjie's Boys with his 28 points, while Mettao and Caro contributed 17 and 16, respectively, and the trio outscored the entire Freestyl crew, 61-59.

Anjie's Boys 72 – Manglona 28, Mettao 15, E. Caro 16, Tudela 6, T. Caro 3.

Freestyl 59 – Brennan 17, Morales 13, Duton 9, Cruz 9, Cruz 7, Detera 4.

Scoring by quarters: 18-8, 28-19, 50-40, 72-59.

MISO

From Page 32

School, Kagman High School, Grace Christian Academy, and Saipan International School joined the boys volleyball, while the girls basketball also drew teams from Southern, Kagman, MHS, and SIS. The cross-country races lured runners from the three public high schools on Saipan.

Other competitions in the MISO calendar are the girls volleyball, boys basketball, boys and girls soccer, golf, and canoe racing.

For more information, contact MISO acting President Nick Gross at nickgross07@gmail.com or MISO's Glenn Smith at tenaday@yahoo.com.

STEADY

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Omechelang.

Simon Manacop collected 1,730 to finish third, while 2010 Bowler of the Robert Talavera and Raphael Zapanta notched only 1,708, and 1, 697 pinfalls, respectively.

With his field-best score in the qualifying tournament held on July 15 at the Capital Bowling Center, Omechelang gained an outright finals berth in the playoffs held on July 22, while the second-ranked Sablan earned a bye in the first round. Manacop, Talavera, and Zapanta went on to battle for a semis seat and the right to face Sablan in the next round. Manacop then carded 191 to beat Talavera (190) and Zapanta (140) and moved into the semis, which Sablan eventually won, 206-189.

With Sablan placing only second in the qualifying tournament, he had to defeat Omechelang twice in the finals to win the coveted award. However, Omechelang won't be denied from getting his second PBA Bowler of the Year award, as he slammed the door on Sablan right in their very first finals duel, 190-186. Omechelang will be receiving the 2012 PBA Bowler of the Year trophy this Sunday in a brief awards ceremony at the CBC. Besides the trophy, Omechelang and the four other qualifiers in the stepladder finals will also be receiving cash prizes.

The 2012 PBA Bowler of the Year earned a ticket to the nine-game qualifying roll-off after winning PBA's January tournament. Other qualifiers were Raymond Angeles (February 2012), Manacop (March 2012), Raymond Zapanta (April 2012), Pablito Amog (May), Ruselle Zapanta (June 2012), Ramir De Leon (July 2011), Raphael Zapanta (August 2011), Lito Teodoro (September 2011), Robert Talavera (October 2011), Raul Dumapit (November 2011), and Richard Leong (December 2011).

Joining the 12 monthly winners in the qualifier were 12 others, who competed in a separate 3-game tournament. Tony Verdaguer topped the 3-game roll-off with his 585 pinfalls, just one pinfall ahead of Rusty Musca. Sablan got the third wild card entry after posting 574 pinfalls and was joined to the next round by Edward Baluyan (518), Toger De Guzman (513), Jorge Soledad (512), Ronald Batac (509), Ronald Epan (504), Diane Chong (476), Jonathan Eparwa (475), Ron Cal (474), and Joe Sto. Domingo (472). Last year's Bowler of the Year Paul Pangelinan missed the 2012 tournament.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	72	52	.581	—
Tampa Bay	69	55	.556	3
Baltimore	67	57	.540	5
Boston	59	65	.476	13
Toronto	56	67	.455	15½

Central Division

Chicago	68	55	.553	—
Detroit	66	57	.537	2
Kansas City	55	68	.447	13
Cleveland	54	70	.435	14½
Minnesota	51	72	.415	17

West Division

Texas	72	51	.585	—
Oakland	67	56	.545	5
Los Angeles	64	60	.516	8½
Seattle	61	64	.488	12

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	77	47	.621	—
Atlanta	71	53	.573	6
New York	57	67	.460	20
Philadelphia	57	67	.460	20
Miami	57	69	.452	21

Central Division

Cincinnati	76	49	.608	—
St. Louis	67	56	.545	8
Pittsburgh	67	57	.540	8½
Milwaukee	57	66	.463	18
Chicago	47	76	.382	28
Houston	39	85	.315	36½

West Division

San Francisco	69	55	.556	—
Los Angeles	67	58	.536	2½
Arizona	64	61	.512	5½
San Diego	56	70	.444	14
Colorado	49	73	.402	19

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2012 Summer Futsal League

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Shirley Coffee Shop's Angie Ito rolls the ball during their game against Xerox in the women's division of the 2012 Saipan Soccer School Summer Futsal League at the TSL Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Xerox's Natalie Hill, center, reaches for the ball during their game against Baked Girls.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Baked Girls goalie throws the ball.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Go Green Team's Don Cabrera mans the goal, while teammate Raphael Zapanta defends Wild Bill's Jack Thoensaket.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Wild Bill's goalie Greg Borja dives for a save.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Godfather's players position on defense before Wild Bill's Jack Thoensaket, not in the photo, attempts for a free kick.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Jack Thoensaket, Irish Pagarao, Tanapon Unsa, and John Taisacan, pose with their medals after winning the Golden Boot award in their respective age groups.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IT&E's Norman Del Rosario, second left, and son Enrico, third left, receive the U18 Fair Play award from league organizers Jersh Angeles, left, and Angie Ito, right.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lee Epperson, center, receives the men's division Fair Play plaque for the Go Green Team.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mellow Yellow players receive the women's division Fair Play award.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Talalemotu plays Division I football

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

After completing his senior year at Beaverton High School in Beaverton, Oregon, former Kagman High School basketball standout Savali Talalemotu is now playing defensive tackle on the gridiron for the Portland State University Vikings.

PSU is a Division I level football team that competes in the National Collegiate Athletics Association's Big Sky Conference (Football Championship Subdivision or FCS I-AA Teams). Other members of the Big Sky include Eastern Washington State University, Idaho State University, Univer-

See TALALEMOTU on Page 30

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Savali Talalemotu, right, seen here posing for a photo after a game with the Beaverton High School in Beaverton, Oregon, now plays for the Portland State University in the NCAA Division I-AA.

Steady Percy is Bowler of the Year

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Percy Omechelang played solid games for two weekends to top the 2012 PBA Budweiser Bowler of the Year Tournament.

Omechelang ruled the nine-game qualifier, beating 23 other bowlers, and then ousted his final foe early to clinch his second PBA Bowler of the Year award. The veteran kegler won his first PBA Bowler of the Year plum in 2009, pulling off an upset over the favored Simon Manacop, but missed the cut in the 2010 and 2011 editions of the annual event, finishing only sixth and seventh, respectively.

Determined to reclaim the crown that eluded him for two straight years, Omechelang was on a zone in the first three games of the qualifying tournament, scoring 200-plus pinfalls (212, 230, 239). He went on to post 200-plus pinfalls in two mores games (233, 210) and averaged 183 in the four other games (198, 186, 169, and 177) to earn 1,853 pinfalls. He led by 110 pinfalls against second qualifier and eventual runner-up Joe Sablan, who mustered 1,743 pinfalls. Omechelang was the lone bowler in the qualifier to score at least 1,800 pinfalls and averaged in the 200s (205.89) in the nine-game roll-off. Sablan averaged only 193.67 and the three other qualifiers in the stepladder finals were more than 100 pinfalls behind

See STEADY on Page 30

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Percy Omechelang, seen here with his 2009 PBA Bowler of the Year trophy, wins the same award this year after besting 23 other keglers in last month's competition.

Anjie's Boys back on track in DLX caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Anjie's Boys recovered quickly from its previous loss after outclassing Freestyl, 72-59, in the only game played in the 2012 DLX/Gualo Rai Invitational Basketball League last Wednesday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Anjie's Boys had its two-game winning streak snapped last week after bowing to Pool B co-leader LD Prime (3-0), 71-77, but regrouped early to notch its third victory and stay in second place in the team standings.

Eugene Manglona, Frank Mettao, and Ezra Caro made things happen for Anjie's Boys, who hardly felt the absence of gunner Sahj Hossain, as the trio alternately took the cudgels for the winning team. Hossain was a no-show for Anjie's Boys for the second straight time.

With Hossain out, Manglona anchored Anjie's Boys's strong start to built a good lead in the first half, while Caro and Met-

See ANJIE'S on Page 30

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Anjie's Boys' Eugene Manglona, seen here pulling up for an off-balance jumper against Gualo Rai's Zack Babauta, scored 28 points in their 72-59 win over Freestyl in the DLX caging last Wednesday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

3 sports to start MISO competition

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization's first tri-mester athletic seasons is scheduled to commence first week of October.

Boys volleyball, girls basketball, and cross-country will be the first three competitions to take place this school year. Other schools are welcome to participate, but must register with MISO organizers via email by Sept. 7.

After all interested participants are accounted for, MISO will then release the season schedules sometime during the third week of September, with anticipated start dates set for first week of October. Games in the basketball and volleyball competitions will be played at the MHS Gymnasium.

Required paperwork for all first tri-mester sports are due by no later than Sept. 28 at 4:30pm.

Last year, Saipan Southern High School, Marianas High

See MISO on Page 30

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Marianas High School's Reylynn Sapong finds an open shot under the basket against Kagman High School in last year's MISO caging at the MHS Gymnasium.